

THE INDEPENDENT

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FRIDAY 27 DECEMBER 1996

WEATHER: Cold and mainly dry

(IR45p) 40p



THE ARTS

Adam Mars-Jones
reviews Picasso

PAGE 15



SPORT

SPORTING
EVENTS OF '97
PULL-OUT CALENDAR INSIDE



+ 20-page
Sports
tabloid

House prices cheer Tories

Heseltine steps out of line
on anti-inflation strategy

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

Michael Heseltine yesterday defied a key element of the Government's anti-inflation policy — heralding a new boom in house prices as a signal of economic success.

John Major, who was a Treasury minister at the time of the last house-price boom, in the late 1980s, has repeatedly said that he will not allow a re-run of that boom and bust cycle.

House prices have been built into the official counter-inflation strategy, and the Deputy Prime Minister's words could now be used as ammunition by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, who is pressing for a further rise in interest rates to damp down the current consumer spending spree.

Talking up the pre-election feelgood factor, Mr Heseltine told BBC radio: "The British people know they've had a tough time, that the world has had a tough time, in this recent recession. And they've seen a guy, John Major, straight as a dye, gutsy, determined to keep his nerve, and what's happened? Well, don't ask the Conservative Party... just look at the newspapers today and in the last couple of days: record sales in the shops, housing boom to come."

"We have got the most extraordinary economic circumstances because John Major and his government presided over the conditions which have helped the British people to achieve this remarkable series of events."

Alan Milburn, a Labour Treasury spokesman, said last night: "Here we go again. Hard-pressed home-owners will not forget the pain caused by Tory boom and bust policies."

"The last time ministers talked of a housing boom inside an economic miracle, it was followed by an almighty crash and the deepest recession this country has ever known. In the headlong rush towards the next election, the Deputy Prime Minister seems

to have forgotten his Prime Minister's warning."

Mr Major said only last year that the 1988 boom in house prices had helped to create the last recession with a "crazy" spiral that had eventually destroyed economic confidence with the negative equity trap.

While Mr Major and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, insist that they will stop any return to the days of boom and bust, the political pressures for interest-rate restraint are fierce in the run-up to the election, which could come at any time from the end of February.

But in an interview with *Le Figaro* on Tuesday, Mr George warned: "For the fifth consecutive year, we are seeing solid growth of the economy. In order to contain this growth, it will be necessary, sooner or later, to increase interest rates."

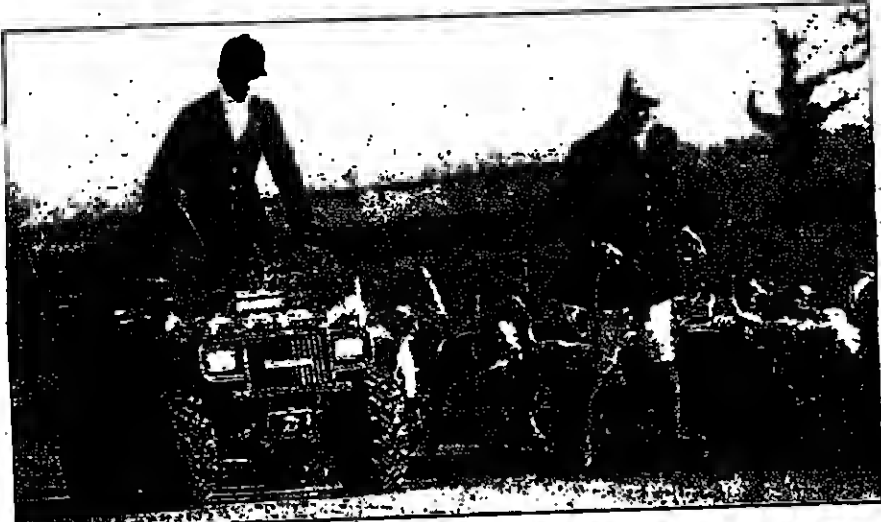
Mr George, who has been warning of a "significant risk" to the Government's inflation target, has been pressing for an increase in interest rates for some time and has clearly not been satisfied by the pre-Budget 0.25 point increase, to 6 per cent, at the end of October.

According to the minutes of the 30 October meeting between Mr George and the Chancellor, published on Monday, Mr Clarke felt "activity was picking up in the housing market, but sales of houses in London were distorted by the overall picture which remained patchy". However, the minutes added: "Demand was high and supply was restricted as home-owners were still keeping their houses off the market in expectation of further price increases. He certainly did not want the recovery in the housing market to get out of hand and would watch it closely."

The latest forecast on house prices, from Swiss bank UBS, is for a 10 per cent rise next year, "the first time the UK has experienced double-digit house-price gains since 1989" — though Abbey National is more cautious, going for 7 per cent.



Cold conditions Members of the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt had to vary their traditional Boxing Day sport at Castle Cary, Somerset, yesterday when a heavy frost made the ground too hard for the horses. Photographs: Rob Stratton



turn a field The hunt's master, Rupert Nuttall, used four wheels to help the huntsman, Chris Bowld (right), marshal hounds



day into a Hunt members accustomed to being carried over obstacles made the best of their way on foot



long walk home And the cold had done as much to ruin a day in the field as the best organised band of saboteurs

Boxing Day heralds hard times for the hunt

James Cusick and
Nicholas Schoon

This year the cold weather did what next year the House of Commons may try to do. Traditional Boxing Day fox-hunts throughout the English countryside were yesterday forced to bow to the natural pressure of freezing temperatures and hard ground, and only occasionally the attempted disruption of hunt protesters.

As a few hunt masters' huns blew yesterday morning, temporarily setting off hounds, and as red-coated riders quickly finished their warming snort of alcohol, most would have been well aware that their attempted festive gallop would very likely be the last.

Despite reports that Labour is hesitating about previous promises, hunt protest groups remain confident that a Tony Blair government intends to hold a free vote on fox-hunting and to ban it on government land. Hunters, though, will not go down without a fight. They will, if necessary, they say, bring central London to a standstill with horseboxes, tractors and tens of thousands of protesters (probably in easily identifiable green Barbour jackets).

"This issue could be Labour's poll tax," said a senior officer in the British Field Sports Society, which is leading the pro-hunting campaign.

Yesterday's bitter weather was on the side of the foxes,

though. All but one of 21 hunts targeted by the League Against Cruel Sports were forced to cancel their chases because freezing temperatures made the ground too dangerous for serious riding. The group's spokesman, Kevin Saunders, said only the Royal Artillery Hunt was able to ride out on Salisbury Plain, although it was forced to give up at 2pm after only one fox.

Mr Saunders said: "This is very good news. The weather just got the better of them. In most cases they did meet, but all they could do was trot around the village before packing up and going home."

An estimated 1,200 protesters had tried to halt hunts around the country. Janet George, from the British Field Sports Society, said bad weather had made the going too hard for almost all of the 280 hunts scheduled for yesterday.

However, some were determined that tradition would out. In Somerset, riders forced to abandon their mounts continued on foot or on farm transport such as mini-tractors, still resplendent in red coat, jodhpurs and crash cap.

Mrs George said it all showed true hunting spirit. "Even if Labour did win, parliamentary procedure makes it unlikely any Bill would become law before next Christmas," she added. "But we believe it will not come to that. We will lobby to ensure no one bans fox-hunting."

One man defeats 5 women. Can you believe that?

Jojo Moyes

So, *Today* listeners rate John Major more highly than five moral women. Or do they?

As the Prime Minister yesterday celebrated his victory as the Radio 4 programme's Personality of the Year, the BBC admitted that not only had it discounted 4,000 of Mr Major's votes because of the possibility of multiple voting, but that it had no way of preventing telephone voters rigging polls.

Following "some evidence of multiple voting", organisers had removed the "maximum number of votes possible" from the poll, already controversial after Labour apparatchiks were caught out trying to fix Tony Blair's nomination.

"We wanted to give the biggest benefit of the doubt to the possibility of multiple votes," a BBC spokesman said yesterday. He refused to disclose how organisers had detected the attempt to rig the poll, but he admitted there was nothing the BBC could do to foil the use of the prefix 141, which shields callers' numbers, allowing over-enthusiastic supporters to vote repeatedly.

The Prime Minister ultimately took 23 per cent of the votes in the annual poll of listeners, finishing ahead of the outsize nurse Lisa Potts, who defended her charges from a man armed with a machete. She came second with 21 per cent, with Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese opposition leader, third.

Brian Wilson, Labour's campaign spokesman, was among the first to pour chilly water on the outcome. "This is the least credible result since Father Ted was given the golden priest award on Christmas Eve," he said, referring to the Channel 4 sitcom about Irish clerics.

Doubts about telephone polls were heightened last week with the revelation in *The Independent* that pro-shooting campaigners had attempted to sway two polls through organised voting. Members of the gun lobby admitted to a campaign to rig polls on Radio Five and Sky News, advising members to dial 141 before calling so that they could make multiple votes.

Professor Bob Worcester of MORI told *The World at One* yesterday: "The Tory Party clearly has been rigging," according to the BBC, otherwise they would not have disallowed 4,000 votes.

A total of 140,000 votes were cast in the final round of the *Today* telephone poll — twice as many as last year.

Crossword & weather

The Cryptic Crossword is on page 13 today, because TV is on the back. You will find the Concise Crossword on page 2, along with the weather.



9 770951 946450

QUICKLY

Paris on alert

Security in and around Paris was stepped up over the Christmas holiday following a threat from Algerian Islamic fundamentalists to launch new terrorist attacks in France. Page 9

Shoppers in the dark

As the annual hysteria of the New Year sales mounts, most shoppers are ignorant of what shops are or are not allowed to do, according to research by a management school. Page 3

CONTENTS

The Broadsheet

Arts	14
Business & City	19
Comment	16-17
Features	15
Foreign News	9-12
Gazette	13
Home News	2-6
Leading Article	16
Letters	16
Shares	18
Sports Calendar	10-11
TV & Radio	20

TODAY'S THE DAY.

A short, sharp shock to the system – all for a good cause



Eight hundred people sprinting into (and out of) a freezing North Sea yesterday at Seaham, Sunderland. Thousands cheered them on, a brass band played and fire fighters hosed down anyone not wet enough.

Undaunted by the frost, they converged for the annual dip

organised by the Sunderland Lions Club, which is the biggest event of its kind in the country. The bathers, many going in as teams and in fancy dress raised another £800 for the local lifeboat station through a collection on the beach.

Stuart Kohn, who was master of ceremonies, said: "It may be

extremely cold but the warm-hearted people of Wearside keep making this bigger and better every year. Everyone has a great time and although we had survival bags on hand in case anyone went down with hypothermia, not a single one was needed."

A group from St Wilfrid's Church in

Moorside went as monks – with lots of warm clothing under their habits. "It still felt very cold," said the Rev Paul Walker, who led the five-strong group. "But I did it last year, wouldn't have missed it for anything this year and we'll be back next time."

Photograph: Raoul Dixon

Brother denies Saudi nurse theft claim

Jojo Moyes

The brother of Lucille McLauchlan, one of two British nurses facing execution in Saudi Arabia for the murder of a colleague, denied yesterday that his sister had been sacked from a previous job for gross misconduct.

His denial came as the brother of the murder victim, Yvonne Gilford, said he would not plead for clemency if the nurses were convicted.

"If you do something wrong in a foreign country you have to abide by the rule and punishments of that nation," said Frank Gilford.

He claimed in a newspaper interview that Saudi sources had told him that security video film showed two people using his sister's credit cards.

Lucille McLauchlan, 31, and colleague Deborah Parry, 41, are accused of murdering the Australian nurse at the military hospital where they all worked. The 55-year-old senior theatre nurse had been stabbed four times, battered with a hammer and smothered.

But John McLauchlan, 28, said yesterday that reports that his sister, a former Student Nurse of the Year, had been sacked from a teaching job in Scotland for stealing credit cards from patients were "untrue".

A statement from Dundee Teaching Hospitals read: "Lu-

cille McLauchlan was dismissed in May 1996 – for gross misconduct following a police investigation. Dundee Teaching Hospitals know of no link between this person and any events in Saudi Arabia."

But Mr McLauchlan said his sister left of her own accord. "The ward she was working on



Lucille McLauchlan: Facing murder charge

was closing. She was offered a position on another ward but she did not want it. She went to a different hospital and got the opportunity to go to Saudi. If she had been dismissed she would not have gone to Saudi Arabia in the first place. She would not have been able to. "She has never been discredited from a nursing job. She started nursing when she was 17. She was student nurse of the year when she passed out. Nurs-

ing was her life."

John McLauchlan said that his parents were having problems comprehending the plight of their daughter. Like the parents of Ms Parry, they were yesterday liaising with Foreign Office officials and planned to go to Dhahran once they were assured they would be able to see their daughter.

Meanwhile the victim's family said they would not intervene to save the two nurses, who face beheading if found guilty. Under Saudi law, a condemned person can be saved if the victim's family pleads for clemency.

"Whoever did this did not give clemency to my sister and I don't think I would offer clemency, hearing in mind the way my sister was murdered," Frank Gilford said in a separate interview yesterday.

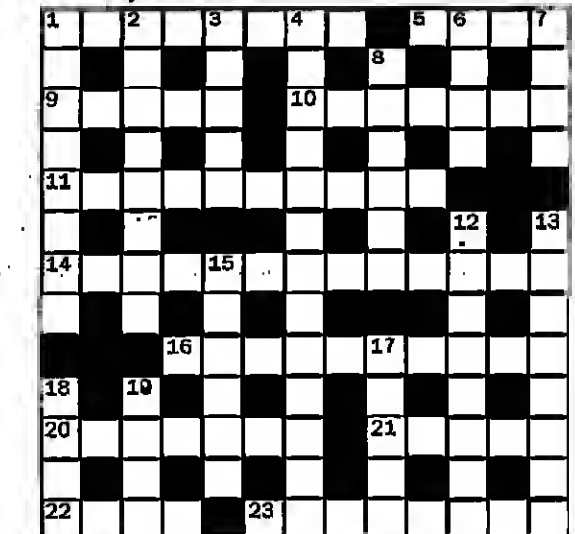
A Foreign Office spokesman said later that the two women were being treated well and had telephoned their relatives in Britain.

The case has caused concern among human rights activists, who say the Saudi justice record is one of the worst in the world. Almost 70 people – none of them European – have been beheaded this year alone.

"Defendants are denied the most basic rights," said Susan Kohn of Amnesty International. "Torture is frequently used to extract confessions and these women could face months in prison awaiting trial."

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No. 3180 Friday 27 December



ACROSS

- 1 Getting hitched (8)
- 5 Poet (4)
- 9 Brown pigment (5)
- 10 Cyclonic storm (7)
- 11 Pieces of frozen precipitation (10)
- 14 Aircraft wheels (13)
- 16 Leading articles (10)
- 20 French country house (7)
- 21 Doorkeeper (5)
- 22 Pantomime character (4)
- 23 Engravings (8)

DOWN

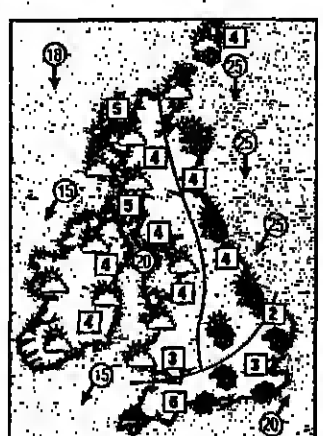
- 1 Outburst of strong language (8)
- 2 Constructs anew (8)
- 3 Tales (5)
- 4 Conservation body (8,5)
- 6 By unknown author (4)
- 7 Accomplished (4)
- 8 Seem (6)
- 12 Running battle? (8)
- 13 Reproves (8)
- 15 Steering device (6)
- 17 Approximate (5)
- 18 Corrosive chemical (4)
- 19 Unruffled (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Wine, 4 Hum (Wine), 7 Zinc, 8 Chaplain, 9 Steeplechase, 10 Chisel, 13 Lavish, 15 Long-drawn-out, 19 Obsolete, 20 Safe, 21 Tie, 22 Tincture, 23 Nucleus, 3 Excel, 4 Halma, 5 Maidens, 6 Cancel, 11 Halbut, 12 Ledger, 14 Venison, 16 Noose, 17 Adept, 18 Unit.

Notes

Weather forecast



High 6 is drifting east, slowly declining. Low 5 will move south, then south-west. High 5 will intensify in situ.

forecast for today

Today will be cold again nationwide. Outbreaks of rain in southern counties will turn to snow for a time before dying out, and there will also be some snow in parts of the south Midlands and East Anglia. East and north-east England and eastern Scotland will have bright spells and scattered wintry showers with a keen north wind. Western Britain and N. Ireland should stay mostly dry with moderate winds.

outlook for the next few days

Friday will continue very cold but generally fine. Eastern and southern counties of England, however, will have scattered snow showers, locally heavy, with brief sunny spells between them. All other parts of the UK should have well-broken cloud and lengthy sunny periods. There will be a sharp east to north-east wind blowing across most of the country, and Friday night will bring another widespread frost.

British Isles weather

London 1 3.57
Birmingham 1 3.57
Manchester 1 3.57
Newcastle 1 3.57
Glasgow 1 3.57
Edinburgh 1 3.57
Cardiff 1 3.57
Belfast 1 3.57
Dublin 1 3.57
Bristol 1 3.57
Liverpool 1 3.57
Sheffield 1 3.57
Nottingham 1 3.57
Leeds 1 3.57
Plymouth 1 3.57
Exeter 1 3.57
Bournemouth 1 3.57
Reading 1 3.57
Oxford 1 3.57
Barnsley 1 3.57
Hull 1 3.57
Preston 1 3.57
Blackburn 1 3.57
Bolton 1 3.57
Salford 1 3.57
Oldham 1 3.57
Rochdale 1 3.57
Wigan 1 3.57
St Helens 1 3.57
Southport 1 3.57
Lancaster 1 3.57
Morecambe 1 3.57
Blackpool 1 3.57
Preston 1 3.57
Blackburn 1 3.57
Bolton 1 3.57
Salford 1 3.57
Oldham 1 3.57
Rochdale 1 3.57
Wigan 1 3.57
St Helens 1 3.57
Southport 1 3.57
Lancaster 1 3.57
Morecambe 1 3.57
Blackpool 1 3.57

World weather

Paris 1 3.57
Brussels 1 3.57
Amsterdam 1 3.57
Frankfurt 1 3.57
Zurich 1 3.57
Bern 1 3.57
Vienna 1 3.57
Munich 1 3.57
Cologne 1 3.57
Düsseldorf 1 3.57
Stuttgart 1 3.57
Basel 1 3.57
Geneva 1 3.57
Lyon 1 3.57
Milan 1 3.57
Rome 1 3.57
Naples 1 3.57
Florence 1 3.57
Venice 1 3.57
Padua 1 3.57
Bologna 1 3.57
Modena 1 3.57
Parma 1 3.57
Reggio Emilia 1 3.57
Ferrara 1 3.57
Ravenna 1 3.57
Brescia 1 3.57
Trento 1 3.57
Bolzano 1 3.57
Innsbruck 1 3.57
Salzburg 1 3.57
Munich 1 3.57
Cologne 1 3.57
Düsseldorf 1 3.57
Stuttgart 1 3.57
Basel 1 3.57
Geneva 1 3.57
Lyon 1 3.57
Milan 1 3.57
Rome 1 3.57
Naples 1 3.57
Florence 1 3.57
Venice 1 3.57
Padua 1 3.57
Bologna 1 3.57
Modena 1 3.57
Parma 1 3.57
Reggio Emilia 1 3.57
Ferrara 1 3.57
Ravenna 1 3.57
Brescia 1 3.57
Trento 1 3.57
Bolzano 1 3.57
Innsbruck 1 3.57
Salzburg 1 3.57

Lighting-up times

London 15.58 to 8.06
Bristol 16.08 to 8.16
Birmingham 16.01 to 8.18
Manchester 15.56 to 8.25
Newcastle 15.45 to 8.32
Glasgow 15.50 to 8.46
Belfast 16.05 to 8.46

High tides

London 15.58 to 8.06
Bristol 16.08 to 8.16
Birmingham 16.01 to 8.18
Manchester 15.56 to 8.25
Newcastle 15.45 to 8.32
Glasgow 15.50 to 8.46
Belfast 16.05 to 8.46

Air quality

London Good
Birmingham Good
Manchester Good
Newcastle Good
Glasgow Good
Belfast Good

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria ... \$340 N. Ireland ... \$5.00
Belgium ... \$480 Italy ... \$4.00
Canada ... \$2000 Mexico ... \$3.25
Cyprus ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Denmark ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
East ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
France ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Germany ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Greece ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Hungary ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Ireland ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Japan ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Korea ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Lithuania ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Luxembourg ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Malta ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Mauritius ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Moldova ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Monaco ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Montenegro ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Netherlands ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Norway ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Poland ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Portugal ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Romania ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Russia ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Serbia ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Slovakia ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Slovenia ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Spain ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Sweden ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Switzerland ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Taiwan ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Thailand ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Turkey ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Ukraine ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
United Kingdom ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
USA ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Vietnam ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00
Yugoslavia ... \$2.18 Norway ... \$2.00

Out and about with AA Roadwatch

For the latest forecasts dial 0800 50005 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the above map. Source: The AA Roadwatch. Calls charged at 45p per min (cheap rate) 50p per min (other times) inc VAT.

sun and moon

Sun rises 8.05
Sun sets 15.58
Moon rises 12.00
Moon sets 8.17
New moon: January 9

significant shorts

Sixth woman dies in Scottish jail

Labour last night demanded a government statement on the sixth death at Scotland's only women's prison in 15 months. The body of 22-year-old Yvonne Gilmore, of Glasgow, was found in her cell at Cornton Vale Prison, near Stirling, on Christmas Eve. She was believed to have committed suicide. Labour's home affairs spokesman John McFall accused the Secretary of State for Scotland, Michael Forsyth, of "dragging his feet" over the spate of deaths at the jail.

Toddler on danger list after fatal fire

A toddler was fighting for his life in hospital yesterday after a Christmas Day fire which killed his mother, Michelle Bone-Knell, 34. Damian Perrins, 18 months, was being treated for the effects of smoke inhalation following the fire at his home in Wolverhampton. His sister, Chantel, three, and their father, Graham Perrins, 33, were recovering in hospital. A man and woman in their mid thirties were being questioned by police in connection with the blaze.

BBC1 heads holiday league

BBC1 won the top three slots on Christmas Day. *Only Fools and Horses* had 18.7 million viewers, *EastEnders* drew 15.9 million, and *Jazz* drew 14.5 million. ITV's best figure was 9.4 million for *Coronation Street*. The Queen was watched by 9.1 million on BBC and 1.9 million on ITV.

Save the cards

A nationwide Christmas recycling scheme has been launched by the Post Office and the Countryside Commission. Cards can be deposited at Post Offices throughout January. Money raised will go towards English Community Forests, Scotland's Woodland Trust and the British Conservation Trust for Volunteers in Wales and Northern Ireland.

The John Lewis Clearance.

It's like a sale, only better.

STARTS SATURDAY AT PETER JONES - Blooms Square. JOHN LEWIS: OXFORD STREET, BRENT CROSS, ABERDEEN, CHEADLE, EDINBURGH, HIGH WYCOMBE. STARTS TUESDAY AT JOHN LEWIS: BRISTOL, KINGSTON, MILTON KEYNES, PETERBOROUGH, WELWYN, BAINBRIDGE, Newcastle, BONOS - Norwich, CALEYS - Windsor, COLE BROTHERS - Bournemouth, HEELAB - Reading, JEBBOP & BON - Nottingham, KNIGHT & LEE - Southsea, GEORGE HENRY LEE - Liverpool, TREWINS - Watford, ROBERT SAYLE - Cambridge, TYRRELL & GREEN - Southampton.

JOHN LEWIS
Department Stores

At John Lewis Department Stores, even during a clearance, it's business as usual. For instance our pricing policy, summed up by 'Never Knowingly Undersold',

means that if we find a local retailer offering the same goods at a lower price, we will reduce ours accordingly, even if their goods are in a sale. We still deliver

free across a wide area. And when you buy, you can return it if you are not completely satisfied. The John Lewis Clearance. It's better than a sale.

0800 50005

Shoppers go gullibly into sales frenzy

Yesterday shops threw their doors open to millions of bargain hunters. But should we believe those 'once only' offers?

Glenda Cooper

Your eyes are focused on the lurid pink fur coat. You knock several old ladies to the ground in your rush and bear it off triumphantly to the till clutching the sale label.

But as the annual hysteria of the January sales begins this week, be warned. Your bargain may not be quite what it seems.

And while it is the consumer's responsibility to point out to Trading Standards any infringement of sales laws by shops, most of us display woeful ignorance as to what stores are allowed or not allowed to do, according to research by the Manchester School of Management.

Over half of the people it talked to did not realise that retailers can raise prices just before a "sale" and then reduce them to make them look like bargains, and just under three quarters of those surveyed did not know that it is perfectly legal for retailers to have a continuous sale all year round.

The findings are part of a study carried out as part of Europe's largest investigation into consumer knowledge, attitudes and behaviour in seasonal sales.

The Manchester researchers looked at four major retailers, tracking their sales discounts over three years, and surveyed 2,500 sale shoppers. The research looked at both the summer sales of 1995 and the winter sales of 1995/96.

Under the UK Code of Practice on Price Indications 1988, price comparisons must always state both the higher price as well as the new lower price - therefore it is not acceptable to display in isolation "Reduced to £39".

If a previous higher price is quoted, it should have applied during at least 28 consecutive days in the preceding six months, and general sales notices such as "Up to 50 per cent off" should not be used unless the maximum reduction quoted applies to at least 10 per cent



Boxing match: Shoppers cramming their way into the Brest Park branch of Scandinavian furniture chain IKEA yesterday as the January sales begin Photograph: Andrew Buurman

of the goods on offer. But most customers were unaware that these restrictions were in place and if they spotted discrepancies usually failed to take action.

"The problem is a) they don't know if it is wrong, b) they are too embarrassed or lazy to do anything about it and c) they do not know what to do about it," said Professor Peter McGoldrick, one of the authors of the report.

"When asked what they would do if they saw jumpers in a half price sale at £20 when they knew the original price was £30, more than a third said they would do

absolutely nothing, and only 4 per cent would report it to their Trading Standards Authority.

Describing sales as a "well orchestrated farce", Professor McGoldrick said that the marked-down goods tended to be ones bought in error by the shops.

"In the good days before the recession, in the late 1980s, retailers found it easy if they made mistakes they could get away with it," he said.

"But when times got bad and stockrooms were bulging with unsold stock they had to get

rid of stuff - if only to get the next lot in." The result was hysterical "everything must go" mark-downs.

But these days are on the way out, the researchers found.

Pricing strategies have changed from the late 1980s with a number of retailers turning against the sharp practice of setting high initial prices in order to give the impression of good bargains - known as "high-low pricing" - in favour of more credible all-year-round good value.

"Consumers ... became increasingly sceptical of high-low

prices, resented the huge margins stores must have been adding and were fed up at always having to shop around and wait until the sales," said the professor.

"The recession highlighted just how inefficient and unfocused some retailers had become," he added. "Deep recession sparked off panicked discounting ... and mark-downs reached unprecedented levels as stores tried to stimulate demand."

Professor McGoldrick said that most stores had taken corrective action and had become

wary of excessive discounting. For example the Burton Group had managed to trade at full price for 73 per cent of the time by 1995 when in the previous year it had been just 24 per cent.

He added that sales could in future diminish in importance but they were unlikely to ever disappear because of the British public's love of a "bargain".

A Harrods shopper was reported as being thrilled with a designer skirt reduced from £184 to £9. "Even if you give it away it is still worth £9," she said. According to the MSM this woman was prey to "transaction

utility". "It is a curious psychology," said Professor McGoldrick. "You buy something you don't want, give it away and still feel as if you've saved money. It would appear that some people can get more enjoyment from the price reduction than the product they carry home."

"I suppose retailers would like to have no sales but they would never get rid of them altogether because they are traditional and work up such excitement," he added. "You can't imagine Knightsbridge without the Harrods sale."

Charge account errors costing thousands

Mathew Horzman

Over-charging, unauthorised cash withdrawals and incorrect debits from charge accounts can cost consumers thousands of pounds - yet only one in five card holders checks his or her bank statements each month.

The figure, published yesterday by the National Association of Bank Consumers, came on the eve of the traditional post-Christmas spending spree.

The association, which is campaigning to convince banks to introduce photo identification credit and debit cards, yesterday advised consumers to retain all receipts and check bills carefully against monthly statements.

Stuart Cliffe, its chairman, said: "If you find an error on your statement weeks or months after the event, it can be much too late to do anything about it, and your money may be gone forever."

The association yesterday published tips to ensure against fraud and over-charging. Above all, consumers are advised to keep their cards with them at all times, but never in the same place as the PIN number. Emergency telephone numbers and a record of all credit and debit card numbers should be kept in a safe place at home.

All receipts should be retained and checked against bank statements each month. If any discrepancies are found, consumers should immediately contact their bank, both by telephone and by a letter sent the same day. Finally, cards should never be lent to anyone, not even to family members.

"You might expect the January sales will be the next drain on your hard-earned cash," Mr Cliffe said. "But with so many credit card transactions at this time of year, thieves and credit card criminals could also be making merry with your money."

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news

Legal challenge to genetically altered crop

Charles Arthur
Science Editor

The introduction of genetically engineered maize to Europe is being opposed by Austria, which will mount a legal challenge to the crop's use, and has banned it from import.

The decision was described as "a hugely significant step in the fight to keep genetically engineered products out of Europe" by the environmental pressure-group Greenpeace. It came the day after the head of the

frozen food company Iceland described as "unacceptable and frightening" the introduction of such products without clear consumer labelling.

The new maize, developed by Ciba-Geigy, has an added gene which makes it resistant to antibiotics. It is intended to be fed to livestock, though British government scientists have expressed worries that its use in animal feed could lead to "superbugs" - bacteria which cannot be killed by standard antibi-

otics. Although the UK opposed the EU approval of the maize, which was finally granted on 18 December, it has accepted imports of the crop. But now Austria, which had also opposed it, has challenged the decision under Article 16 of the EU rules - that it might present a risk to human health or the environment. Under EU law, the Commission must now reconsider its decision within three months.

Meanwhile, the US Environmental Protection Agency chose the

pre-Christmas rush to slip out the news that it has approved the new maize, which could now be planted in the US from next spring. Ciba-Geigy has fought hard to have the maize approved after spending millions of pounds developing it.

Earlier this year, genetically modified soya beans developed by the US company Monsanto made up 2 per cent of the US crop - but were not separated from the rest of the harvest. Soya is used in thousands of foods, from chocolate to bread to

baby food. Malcolm Walker, chairman and chief executive of Iceland, said: "Millions of ordinary people are very worried about genetically modified foods and I am one of them."

Genetically modified tomato paste and some cheeses have been on sale in shops for almost a year, but are clearly marked, giving the consumer a choice. However, the genetically modified soya beans were mixed, unlabelled, with ordinary soya in the Americas and put into worldwide

distribution. "The American public seem at ease with this - most Europeans and certainly the British are not. And I for one find it frightening," said Mr Walker, himself a member of Greenpeace for some years.

"It is totally unacceptable that American companies should dictate to us in this way. We must demand total traceability for all food and clear labelling." He said that at Iceland, maize and soya were from totally traceable sources. He criti-

cised food minister Angela Browning, noting that she had backed an EU agreement on novel food regulation, but omitted to mention exceptions to labelling requirements.

"Sorry, totally unacceptable - consumers have a right to know about every genetically engineered product," Mr Walker said. "Government action is needed on two counts - we must know the source of products and labelling must be mandatory. It doesn't seem much to ask - yet to date neither is in force."

Jazz star Ronnie Scott dropped suicide hints

James Cusick

A personal fear that he could no longer perform to his own enormously high standards may have driven Ronnie Scott, the jazz musician and club owner, to kill himself.

As close friends and relatives yesterday continued to mourn, Scott's army of admirers awaited the inevitable commemorative night at his Soho jazz club in Frith Street. One close friend said: "Those expecting a wake should know better."

An early biography of Scott's life by the critic John Fordham was initially called "Let's Join Hands and Contact the Living". Another close friend said: "The title was apt. We will be celebrating someone who knew how to live."

Scott's body was discovered by one of his daughters in his London flat on Monday. A glass containing alcohol and a empty bottle of pills were found near the body.

In recent months, those who knew the 69-year-old Scott were aware that he was depressed. Some friends also believed he had tried to drop gentle hints that it was unlikely he would be around for his 70th birthday.

Scott had been quietly scheduled to play at his club on Christmas Eve. It had been nearly two years since he had played his beloved tenor saxophone in front of audiences. Having developed a serious heart disease, he was forced to undergo extensive specialist dental surgery in the United States. Tooth extraction and implants were part of the surgery. Crucially for a specialist

musician this had altered the shape of his mouth and affected his ability to play.

Those around Scott knew he was having problems with what musicians call "embouchure", the position and use of the lips involved in playing a wind instrument like the saxophone.

He had been struggling to play precise notes and create his own distinctive timbre.

Although Scott always talked modestly about his own talents compared to the jazz greats who over 30 years had performed in



Scott: Upset by lost ability

his club, he was nevertheless, according to friends, an "intuitive, competitive performer" who maintained "enormously high standards".

Although professional critics and musicians have lined up to praise Scott's achievements, both as a player and as the man who rejuvenated British jazz and

encouraged generations of players into believing jazz excellence was not just the preserve of Americans, close friends were reluctant to speculate about the precise reasons that made him decide to commit suicide.

One respected critic who knew Scott well said jazz musicians like him led a lifestyle that few understood.

Their work, in the small hours of the night, moving into day, also involved the intensity of having to improvise.

In addition, their pressurised reputation, night after night, meant they were "only as good as their last solo".

One of Scott's tenor-sax heroes, the American Coleman Hawkins, is listed in the history books as having died naturally from pneumonia in 1969. But this was not before he had practically lived for years on a diet of Remy Martin brandy, and was prone to regular bouts of clinical depression.

Although the world of jazz is littered with self-destructive temperaments - such as the alto-saxophone player Charlie Parker, who spent a large part of his professional life addicted to heroin, or the trumpeter Chet Baker, who died in 1988 after falling or more likely jumping from a hotel window in Amsterdam - Scott will be remembered for a constructive contribution to his craft.

The musician and writer, George Melly, who had been booked to sing with Scott at the Frith Street club said musicians would remember him as a wonderful player and a wonderful person.

Obituary, page 13

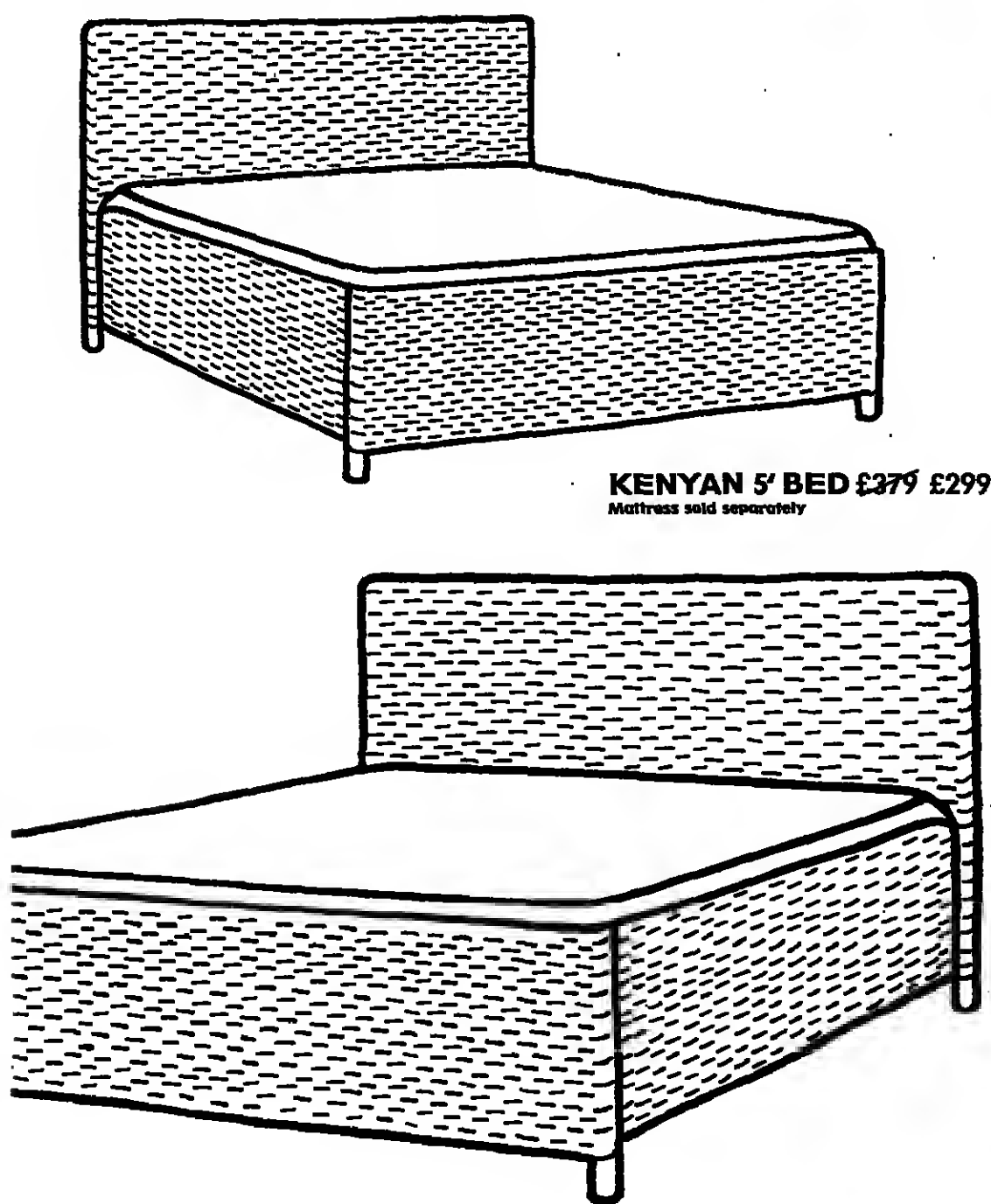
Puppy finds sheltering arm at home for waifs and strays



A worker at the Dogs Home Battersea holding just one of more than 90 dogs brought in over the last week, bringing this year's total to nearly 8,000. The rescue centre, in south London, now houses more than 670 dogs and 125 cats

Photograph: Nick Tapsell

Minist
says no
curbs a
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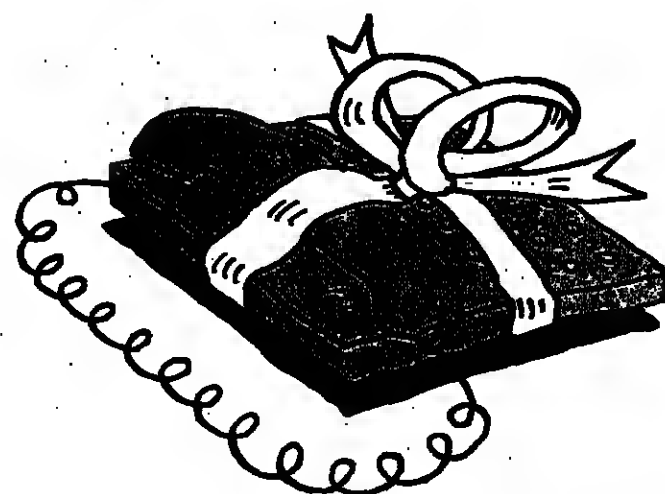
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Step by step: Pilgrims arriving for a service at Fountains Abbey, North Yorkshire, yesterday after walking from Ripon Cathedral four miles away, where they had attended communion. The pilgrims to the National Trust property follow part of the route first taken by 13 monks from St Mary's Abbey, York, in 1132. Photograph: Tim Smith/Guzelian

Major Tom floats on stock market high

David Lister
Arts News Editor

David Bowie is planning to mark his 50th birthday in January by allowing members of the public to invest in him.

The scheme involves raising around £50m on Wall Street through the first issue of bonds linked to the artist's royalties.

Though members of the public have for many years invested in shows in London and on Broadway, it would be a radical departure to allow investment in the earnings of an individual rock singer.

In the case of Bowie, the plan is that investors will take a share of the royalties from the artist's catalogue. Bowie's recent ventures have been experimental, with his passion for the Internet a key aspect. And his sales in the Nineties have been unpredictable.

However the bond scheme would also give investors a cut

of future earnings from the singer's back catalogue, which still sells around a million records a year. It includes classic albums from the Seventies such as "Ziggy Stardust", "Hunky Dory" and "Aladdin Sane", the Eighties chart-topper "Let's Dance" and various "greatest hits" packages.

Bowie's business management firm, the Raceoff Zynblatt Organisation in New York, has retained a New York investment bank, Gruntal and Co, to look into the idea.

Gruntal's managing director, David Pulman, told the music industry journal *MusiX* that such an offer would be an attractive low-risk investment because of the potential value of the back catalogue, which has not been actively marketed since 1993. *MusiX* Week confirmed that raising investment on an artist's future earnings would be a first for the music business.

Minister says noise curbs are too costly

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

A Brussels plan to curb noise pollution from road, rail and industry could cost billions of pounds, the Government has warned MPs.

Opposing the consultative proposal, the Environment Minister James Clappison has told the Commons European Legislation Committee: "Action on noise exposure is an issue of strictly local concern."

The commission has suggested "noise-mapping" of the European Union, pin-pointing problem areas, and setting targets for reducing the nuisance through the noise-testing of vehicles, curbs on tyre-road noise, the possibility of deterrent rail track charges, and punitive airport taxes for noisy aircraft.

In reply, Mr Clappison said that target noise proposals contained in a 1994 report from the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution would have cost up to £5bn, and the cost of additional measures for industry "could also run into billions".

He told the Commons committee: "The Government acknowledges that problems of excessive noise from domestic, industrial and commercial premises and from most modes of transport exist in varying degrees in most member states."

"However, significant cultural, political and lifestyle differences amongst member states underline the need to deal with these problems at national or local level, as appropriate."

The minister also warned that the proposal for noise-mapping and Europe-wide harmonisation of the exposure to noise, along with target curbs, opened up "a new field of community activity which traditionally and rightly has been the exclusive concern of national, regional and local authorities".

Addressing each of the proposals in turn, Mr Clappison said wholesale noise-mapping was "likely to be very costly and, by itself, seems unlikely to produce environmental benefits and most likely to raise expectations which cannot be fulfilled".

As for noise targets and standards, he said: "Some exist already in the UK, including thresholds for compensation for increased noise resulting from new roads and railways, noise limits and night restrictions at airports and recommended levels of noise exposure for new residential development near the major sources of noise."

The Government was concerned that variable rail track charges could make the railways less attractive than road transport, and it said there was "considerable concern" that the cost of curbs on noisy industrial machinery had to be justified by environmental benefit. "The specific proposals on transport noise will have significant cost implications for vehicle manufacturers and railways companies," the minister said.

Under present British law, complaints about excessive noise can be investigated and abatement action can be taken by local authorities in England and Wales, and by the police in Scotland, who also have powers to seize noisy equipment. Results of the consultation on the Brussels package are to be considered by ministers next June. Because eventual decisions will be taken by qualified majority vote, the government cannot use a blocking veto.

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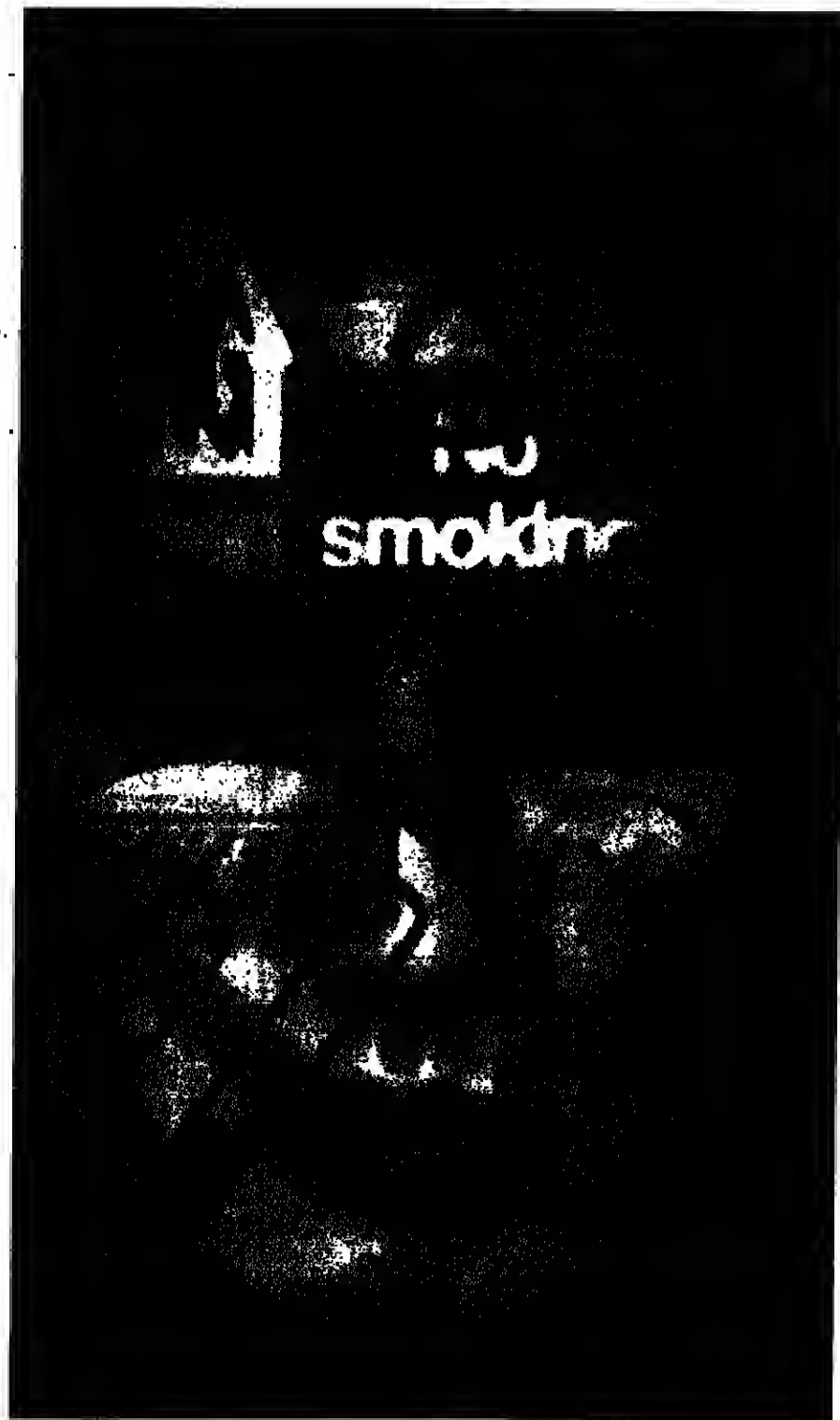
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5,000 schools hit by books crisis

Shortages of books and equipment are hampering children's education in more than 5,000 schools, according to a Labour estimate. But parents said they thought it only "scratched the surface" of educational neglect.

The National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations believes parents now spend more than £100m in direct contributions to schools, many for "essentials".

The latest estimate on the impact of book shortages was calculated by Labour from figures supplied by the Government's chief schools inspector, Chris Woodhead. He confirmed that two years ago in a sample survey, his inspectors found book shortages "adversely affected lessons" in 13 per cent of primary schools and 23 per cent of secondary schools.

The Labour education spokeswoman, Estelle Morris, said that if the survey was representative, 5,567 schools would be affected across Britain.

She said: "These figures from the Government's inspectors show that thousands of schools

across the country have been left with shortages of books and equipment which, in Mr Woodhead's words, are adversely affecting the standard of lessons. Parents are having to subsidise the cost of books."

Margaret Morrissey, spokeswoman for the NCPTA, said: "I am surprised the figure of schools is so low. Our associations know the problem is far worse. They could tell Mr Woodhead about pupils whose families live miles apart being expected to share books, and about others who have never seen a book - just endless photocopied pages."

Groups representing all faiths are to hold a series of conferences a fresh bid to resolve the row over religious assemblies in schools. The law requiring a daily act of "broadly Christian" worship in schools is widely flouted. But the Government refuses to relax it, despite evidence that at least 4 out of 10 secondary schools ignore it and 8 out of 10 primary schools cannot guarantee that it will be upheld.

It needn't be hell with nicotinell.

news

Fat cat's workers on 81p an hour

Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

One of the most prominent "fat cats" in the privatised utilities is presiding over a company that paid workers 81p an hour for digging trenches - among the lowest rates ever recorded in modern Britain.

Henry Casley, who retired as chief executive of Southern Electric with a package estimated to be worth anywhere between £250,000 and £570,000, still retains responsibility for subsidiaries, one of which paid contract workers £33.04 net for

a 50-hour week. Mr Casley is now understood to earn about £100,000 a year for a non-executive seat on the board at Southern Electric where his posts include the chairmanship of the cable layers MB Burke.

Workers taken on to dig trenches for MB Burke received £122 each for three weeks' work. The Barnsley-based company deducted from their pay £200 for the use of a mini mechanical digger.

John Waddle, 27, one of the trench diggers, said he and his two colleagues were not warned that such an amount

would be taken from their wages to pay for the rent of the equipment. He said they worked from seven in the morning until nearly eight at night. "I thought I would be earning a bit of money for Christmas and now I've nothing," he said.

Ken Taylor, finance director at MB Burke, said the men were not paid by the hour, they had opted for piecework. All the conditions of employment and pay deductions were made clear in their contracts, he said. "Unfortunately they didn't produce the quality or the quantity of work required."

He said the men dug around 100 metres of trench a week, whereas the normal rate of production is between 200 and 500 metres, depending on the degree of effort and the condition of the ground. The average pay for such work was around £275 a week, Mr Taylor insisted.

"We are very proud of our job creation record. Our business operates mainly in the Midlands, Yorkshire and the North East where people have been hit hard by the closure of mines and steelworks. We now employ 1,750 people, a workforce which has increased by 250 this year.

We wouldn't have been able to recruit so many people if we were paying low wages," he said.

The Southern Electric directors, ultimately responsible for the firm's performance, received a 14 per cent rise in pay after receiving pay increases of between 14 and 18 per cent. Mr Casley enjoyed a £56,000 bonus. John Deane, group finance director received a similar percentage increase including a £35,000 bonus.

One industry source calculated that before privatisation the eight directors at Southern

Electric earned a total of £185,000, now they were on £1.1m plus share options.

Following recommendations by the Greenbury report into boardroom remuneration, last year Southern Electric reduced directors' employment contracts from three years to one. However the change was to be introduced over a two-year period.

A spokesman for Southern Electric refused to divulge the precise extent of Mr Casley's retirement package or his present salary. "That is not in the public domain yet. You will have to wait for the annual report."



The lens of an Irishman reveals the face of exile

Alan Murdoch

A treasure-trove of photographs documenting a wave of Irish migrants who from the Forties onwards turned parts of the capital into a home-from-home has been saved by a north London museum.

The work of Waterford-born Paddy Fahey, who died in 1994, spanned all aspects of life of the tens of thousands who, like him, left Ireland during economic stagnation seeking work and a new start in Britain.

Fahey trained in Ireland during the Thirties and moved to London in 1941 where he worked first as a labourer before establishing himself in his chosen profession in the Fifties. Over the next three decades he worked freelance mainly for *The*

Irish Post, the weekly newspaper for the Irish community in Britain, and the *Cork Weekly Examiner*. He also supplied Irish nationals with British material.

An exhibition of Fahey's work mounted by the Grange Museum in Neasden is now on display in City Museum, Fitzgerald Park, in Cork until the New Year and thereafter in Wexford, Tipperary, Waterford and west-coast venues.

Six thousand of his photographs were purchased last year from his widow, Peggy, by the Grange Museum, with help from the Ireland Fund of Great Britain. They are now held at the Brent Archive in Cricklewood, north-west London.

Fahey's clear, uncontrived style caught vivid images. His subjects span gaelic sports, re-



Images from an Irish album: Dancers resting at a ceilidh in Maidstone, Kent, in 1959. Above left, Fahey holds his son, Patrick, on a visit to Ireland in the early Sixties

Photographs: Paddy Fahey Collection, Grange Museum

ligious events, celebrities such as Eamonn Andrews and Val Doonican, dances and visiting Irish musical stars.

He also covered political tensions, from small London protests by old IRA men against Irish and British governments' policies. Pictures captured them of assertive nationalism disappeared in the Seventies as Fahey became disillusioned with

the Republican cause in the wake of the IRA's Birmingham and Guildford pub bombings.

"After the bombings he got sickened by the public side of Irishness and was upset by the reaction against the Irish community," said Eibhlin Whoolley, senior curator at The Grange, who knew the photographer towards the end of his career. "It was his generation that was thrown sideways by the reaction, and [by] the IRA's in Ireland."

His political photos captured unique events, such as the troping of IRA colours in Parliament Square in 1951. But it was in dance halls and churches that he caught a special human quality. His photos of twisting couples and the exuberant showband era of the Sixties and Seventies radiate excitement. Venues such as Bamba and Galtymore dance halls in north London became familiar Fahey destinations, where packed audiences flocked to see the Irish Brendan Bowyer, Joe Lynch and later Big Tom.

Earlier pictures of temperance outings and huge attendances at missions and Catholic churches suggested a more uncertain period as a new community found its way in a foreign country.

Long afterwards some of the faces featured acquired greater notoriety. In a photo of cheery clerics at the 1969 dinner dance of the Galway Association in London, is one Father Eamonn

Casey, then a London priest and housing organiser, afterwards Bishop of Kerry and later Galway. In 1992 he went into exile in South America after the scandal surrounding his secret fathering of a son by an American woman, Annie Murphy.

Also caught at the microphone in 1966 was the Singing Priest, Father Michael Cleary, exposed after his death two years

ago as a cynical seducer of women in his care, who yet publicly preached from pulpit, radio, and newspaper columns a hard-line narrow-minded morality.

Fahey, who never made a fortune from his work, was still working in his late seventies as a portrait photographer in Goldstone, London when he died. A book of his photography is to be published next year.



Star turn: Big Tom signing autographs at the Galtymore dance hall in 1970

Police want judges and MPs to also reveal Masonic links

James Cusick

Organisations representing police officers will demand that other groups linked to the justice system be included if they are to be legally pressurised into disclosing membership of secret societies such as the Freemasons. Such groups would include judges, lawyers and MPs.

The pressure on police officers has increased with a new demand from the Police Complaints Authority that police officers be compelled to disclose Masonic membership in a register open to public scrutiny. In its submission to the House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs, which is considering the issue of Masons and the legal system and whether re-

strictions are needed, the PCA says that although there is no firm evidence of abuse, the suspicions that there are misuses linked to membership are not uncommon and need to be addressed.

A compulsory public register of officers "on the square" (as Masonic membership is sometimes referred to) would "start to dismantle the present culture of secrecy".

The position taken by the PCA follows a recent statement by the Association of Chief Officers (ACPO) which urged the Government to legislate for open registration.

The PCA chairman, John Carrington, said on BBC Radio's *Today* programme that a problem existed because it was un-

clear which officers were Freemasons. "We have the situation sometimes in quite serious investigations where we discover senior police officers or middle-ranking police officers are members of the same Masonic lodge as people who are suspected of quite serious criminal offences," he said. "There may be nothing wrong going on but certainly the public and critics put two and two together and jump to the wrong conclusion."

There are thought to be about 475,000 Freemasons in the UK and nearly 9,000 lodges. Initiation ceremonies, dating back to the early 18th century, still include blood oaths and vows of loyalty to fellow members of the Brotherhood.

Should the Home Secretary,

Michael Howard, bow to the PCA and ACPO demands, rank-and-file police officers are likely demand the net is spread wider. The president of the Superintendents Association, Brian McKenzie, said that if the register was to apply to police it should apply to everyone within the criminal justice system. "We would have no objection at all to compulsory registration of interest in such things as Masonic lodges if indeed other components of the criminal justice system such as judges, Crown Prosecution Service lawyers and members of the PCA also declared an interest," he said. "They wield just as much power as police officers. Police officers feel there is an attack on their integrity."

Police officers feel there is an attack on their integrity."

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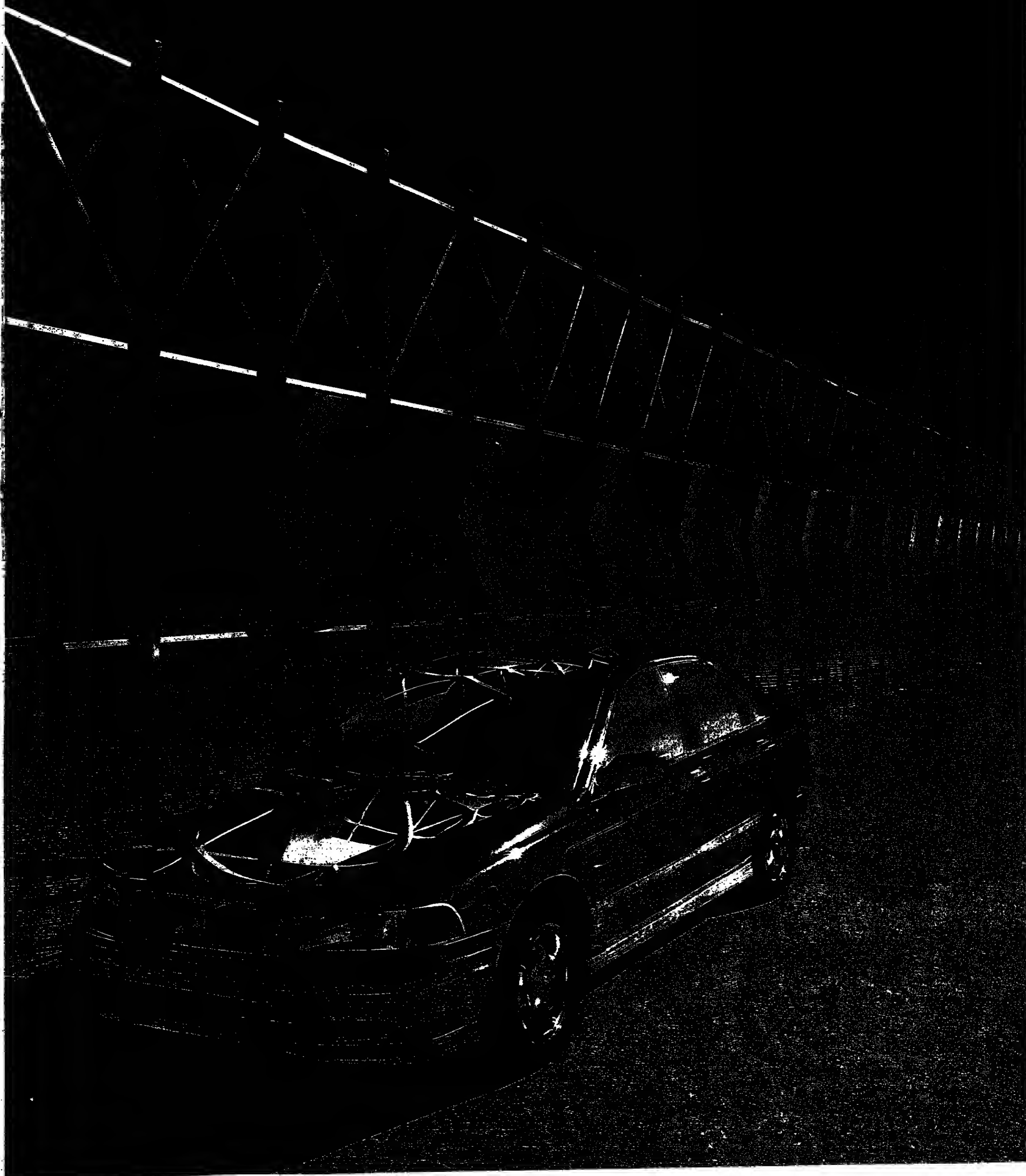
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international

No crumb of Christmas comfort for ousted leader's husband



Season of ill will: Asif Ali Zardari, husband of ousted Pakistani premier Benazir Bhutto, being taken to jail in Karachi yesterday after being remanded in custody on corruption charges. He complained that he had not been allowed to take Christmas cake with his wife and children. Photograph: Reuters

Terror alert in France after Islamic threat

Mary Dejevsky
Paris

Security in and around Paris was stepped up over the Christmas holiday, following a threat from Algerian Islamic fundamentalists to launch new terrorist attacks unless the government meets a list of demands. They included the release of a convicted terrorist sentenced to death in Algeria and an end to French and European aid to the Algerian government.

The threat was contained in an open letter to President Jacques Chirac and couched in exceptionally strong language. After referring to past terrorist attacks and threatening to "destroy France", the letter said: "We are capable of doing much more than this, because we believe that when we cut off your heads, dissect your bodies and scatter you, we are performing an act of devotion that brings us nearer to God."

It was signed with the name of Antar Zouabri, "emir of the GIA". Zouabri was recently named in a newsletter regarded as close to the GIA as the organisation's new leader.

The letter apparently arrived at the Elysée Palace last weekend, but first details were released by the authorities, perhaps deliberately, only on Christmas Eve when people were preoccupied with domestic preparations and the media were in good-news mode.

Reports were low key and were accompanied by an interior ministry statement insisting that "all measures of vigilance and security have been renewed and strengthened" and that the government would "not give in to blackmail, fear or violence". There were also suggestions that the letter was a forgery or a trick. There are many signs, however, that it is regarded by the authorities as genuine.

It now appears, for instance, that although the French government frequently professes ignorance of the GIA's motives for any attacks, it has received similar letters and demands in the past, including before the Air France hijack two years ago and after the abduction of seven French monks from their monastery in Algeria last April.

In the first case, the French authorities refused to negotiate, stormed the plane and killed the hijackers, leaving the GIA threatening vengeance. In the second, the authorities apparently tried to deal with the kidnappers (though they denied it at the time), and the subsequent murder of the monks seems to have resulted from the deal going wrong.

Both times, the attackers demanded the freedom of Abdelhak Layachi, who headed the GIA until June 1993 when he was arrested in Morocco and extradited to his native Algeria where he faces the death penalty. The latest letter also demands freedom for an as yet unnamed group of "brethren".

Serb riot police clear streets of protesters

Kurt Schork
Belgrade (Reuters)

Riot police forced opposition demonstrators off Belgrade's streets yesterday as the Serbian government cracked down on more than five weeks of protests against President Slobodan Milosevic. A spokeswoman for the Zajedno (together) opposition parties said the coalition feared its three main leaders were about to be arrested as Mr Milosevic appeared to lose patience with the disruption of the capital for several hours a day.

Thousands of police in riot gear swarmed central Belgrade to enforce an interior ministry ban on marches by Zajedno and students against alleged election fraud perpetrated by the ruling Socialist Party (SPS).

The police ignored a march through snowy streets by 5,000 students but were firm with around 30,000 Zajedno activists

blocking a main street under the windows of the opposition headquarters in the city centre.

They forced the demonstrators into a pedestrian area at the nearby Republic Square, hitting those who resisted with their shields and hitting them with batons.

The three Zajedno leaders said to be threatened with arrest - Zoran Djindjic, Vuk Draskovic and Vesna Pasic, addressed the demonstrators from a platform in the square. Mr Djindjic told the whistling crowd: "Can you imagine a country in which, after losing local elections, its president tries to provoke a civil war?" He added: "We will always manage to last one day longer than Milosevic. They simply cannot keep 20,000 police in Belgrade every day, but we can hold out for six months if necessary."

The Zajedno spokeswoman said 20,000 police equipped

with water cannon were deployed in the capital to prevent a 37th day of opposition protests.

The United States and other Western governments have warned Mr Milosevic he risks economic reprisals and continued international isolation if he uses violence to restore order. He rejected a request for an emergency meeting from a US diplomat, Richard Miles, who saw the Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic instead.

The Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister, Nikola Sainovic, told journalists the authorities would not use violence but said "anyone who violates or questions the authority of the law will not be tolerated".

At least 58 people were injured in fighting between police, opposition and SPS supporters on Tuesday when Mr Milosevic held a counter-rally outside the Zajedno offices which flopped.

Evil spirit exorcised from 'Swan Lake'

A new production of *Swan Lake* has opened at Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre, where the stagnant repertoire is at last being refreshed after the departure of the so-called "dictator of ballet", the former artistic director Yuri Grigorovich.

But his replacement, Vladimir Vasilyev, has yet to win the hearts of Muscovites with his new version of the popular classic, in which he has taken the controversial decision to drop the evil black swan.

Vasilyev, who promised to bring a belated dose of *perestroika* to the Bolshoi after he ended Grigorovich's 30-year grip on the ballet in 1995, knows that he may disappoint those in the audience who love to hate the baddy. But he justifies dropping the black swan on the grounds that she was not originally envisaged by Tchaikovsky.

The composer's first ballet, dating back to 1877, was not much of a success when it was initially staged, and Tchaikovsky was so disappointed that he waited 14 years before venturing to write another. He died

never knowing that *Swan Lake* would come to be appreciated. The St Petersburg choreographer Marius Petipa brought in the black swan when he revived the ballet one year after Tchaikovsky's death. The story is that Prince Siegfried falls in love with a maiden turned into a white swan by a magician. But by mistake, he swears eternal love to an evil black look-alike.

Grigorovich, who first staged his version of the ballet in 1969, wanted the romantic prince to die tragically as a result of his failure to reconcile the pure ideals of the white swan and the dark fantasies of his subconscious, represented by the black swan. But he was working in the darkest days of the Brezhnev era. Soviet cultural watchdogs insisted on a happy ending and, rather than ruin his career, Grigorovich bowed to pressure.

Dancers who went on strike in support of Grigorovich before he was forced to retire said he was a victim of his time and no more of a dictator than any other ballet master. Vasilyev is more co-operative with the media than his predecessor. And he keeps his dancers on their toes by insisting that they have renewable contracts, a shocking change for artists brought up in the Soviet jobs-for-life system. His artistic achievements have yet to be judged, however.

Many Russians are cynical about *Swan Lake*, since the Communist hardliners who tried to oust Mikhail Gorbachev in August 1991 kept repeating the ballet on television in the hope of distracting popular attention from the coup.

Nevertheless, tickets were sold out for the first night, coinciding with Western Christmas, which some New Russians think it chic to celebrate before the traditional New Year holiday and the Russian Orthodox Church Christmas in January.

Hebron deal 'by new year'

Jerusalem (Reuters) — The Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat expects a long-overdue deal for handing over the town of Hebron to PLO self-rule to be signed with Israel at the end of the month, Palestinian legislators said yesterday.

Ziyad Abu Ziyad, of East Jerusalem, said Mr Arafat announced the dates during a briefing on talks he had held with Israel on the Hebron deal. "If the Israelis go ahead with their promises and the plans

which were planned, maybe it will be possible to conclude an agreement on the 30th and the 31st [of December]," he said.

The remarks supported the forecast of a senior Israeli official on Tuesday that there would be a deal by the end of the year. A summit that day between Mr Arafat and Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Prime Minister, ended weeks of deadlock in talks on Israel's hand-over of 80 per cent of Hebron to the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied

West Bank. Tensions remain high in Hebron. A petrol bomb was thrown near the town's Jewish enclave but caused no injuries or damage.

Most of Mr Netanyahu's cabinet are expected to back the deal though some say it spells danger for Jews in Hebron.

The US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross headed home to brief President Bill Clinton on the talks. He said he would be back on Monday to seal the agreement.



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127/2



JANUARY

- 1 Cricket: England v Zimbabwe, second one-day international, Harare; England Under-19 v Combined XI, one-day game, Lahore
- 2 Snooker: Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge (to 5 Jan)
- 3 Cricket: England v Zimbabwe, third one-day international, Harare; England Under-19 v Pakistan Under-19, first one-day international, Gujranwala; Sliding Women's Alpine World Cup (slalom, giant slalom), Maribor, Slovenia (to 4); Speed Skating British Short Track Championships, Guildford (to 4)
- 4 Football: FA Cup third round; Rugby union Ireland v Italy, Dublin; European Cup semi-final: Leicester v Toulouse, France; Athletics: Belfast cross-country, Malinsk; Golf: World Championship of Golf, Scottsdale, Arizona (to 5)
- 5 Rugby union: European Cup semi-final: Brive, France v Cardiff; Cricket: England Under-19 v Pakistan Under-19, second one-day international, Sialkot; Sliding Men's Alpine World Cup (slalom, giant slalom), Kranjska Gora, Slovenia (to 6)
- 6 Tennis: Sydney International, Hobart (all events to 11)
- 8 Football: Coca-Cola Cup fifth round; Cricket: England Under-19 v Pakistan Under-19, third one-day international, Karachi
- 10 Cricket: England v NZ Academy XI, one-day game, New Plymouth
- 11 Horse racing: Victor Chandler Chase, Ascot; Sliding Alpine World Cup: Men (downhill, slalom, combined), Chamonix, France; Women (downhill, slalom, super-g), Bad Kleinkirchheim, Austria (to 12); Speed Skating World Junior Short Track Championships, Michigan (to 12)
- 12 Cyclo-cross: British Championships, Sutton Park, Birmingham (to 9); Athletics: Amorbieta cross-country meeting, Spain
- 13 Tennis: Australian Open, Melbourne (to 26); Cricket: England v NZ Selection XI, Palmerston North (to 16)
- 14 Sliding Men's Alpine World Cup (giant slalom), Adelboden, Switzerland
- 17 Athletics: IAAF indoor permit meeting, Montreal; Speed Skating: European Short Track Championships, Malm0 (to 18)
- 18 Rugby union: Five Nations Championship, Scotland v Wales, Murrayfield; Ireland v France, Dublin; Cricket: England v Northern Districts, Hamilton (to 21); Rallying: Monte Carlo Rally (to 23); Sliding Alpine World Cup: Men (downhill, slalom), Wengen, Switzerland; Women (slalom, giant slalom), Zwiesel, Germany (to 19)
- 19 Figure Skating: European Championships, Paris (to 27); Snooker: UK Admiral's Cup team at Key West (to 26); Athletics: Seville cross-country
- 20 Football: Fifa World Player of the Year 1996 announced, Lisbon
- 23 Golf: Johnnie Walker Classic, Hope Island, Queensland, Australia (to 26); Athletics: St Petersburg indoor meeting
- 24 Cricket: England v New Zealand, first Test, Auckland (to 28); Sliding Alpine World Cup: Men (two downhill, slalom, combined), Kitzb0hel, Austria; Women (downhill, giant slalom, super-g), Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy (to 26)

Snooker: Royal Welsh Open, Newport (to 1 Feb)

- 25 Football: FA Cup fourth round; Rugby union: Heineken European Cup Final, venue to be decided; Athletics: AAA Indoor Championships, Birmingham
- 26 American Football: Super Bowl XXXI, Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
- 27 Tennis: Men: Croatian indoor tournament, Zagreb; Shanghai Open, Women: Pan-Pacific Open, Tokyo (all events to 2 Feb)
- 29 Sliding Men's Alpine World Cup (super-giant slalom), Laax, Switzerland
- 30 Cricket: England v New Zealand A, Wanganui (to 2 Feb); Golf: Heineken Classic, The Vines, Perth, Australia (to 2 Feb); Sliding Men's Alpine World Cup (night slalom), Schladming, Austria

FEBRUARY

- 1 Rugby union: Five Nations Championship, England v Scotland, Twickenham; Wales v Ireland, Cardiff; Athletics: IAAF indoor meeting, Budapest; Touring cross-country, France; Cyclo-cross: World Championships, Munich (to 2); Sliding Women's Alpine World Cup (downhill, slalom, combined), Laax, Switzerland (to 2)
- 2 Sliding Alpine World Championships, Sestriere (to 8); Tennis: Women: LTA satellite, Sunderland (to 8); Snooker: Benson & Hedges Masters, Wembley (to 9 Feb); Athletics: Indoor meeting, Stuttgart
- 3 Tennis: Women: Austrian Open, Linz; Men: LTA indoor satellite, Bramhall, Gtr Manchester (both to 9); Snooker: Australia Cup, Perth (to 9)
- 4 Speed Skating: International short track competition, Guildford (to 5)
- 5 Athletics: IAAF indoor meeting, Madrid
- 6 Cricket: England v New Zealand, Second Test, Wellington (to 10); Golf: South African Open, the (to 9)
- 7 Tennis: Davis Cup, World Group, first round (to 9); Hockey: Men's indoor club finals, Crystal Palace; Rallying: Swedish International Rally, Karlstad (to 10); Athletics: IAAF indoor meeting, New York
- 8 Athletics: IAAF indoor meeting, Macbashi, Japan; indoor meeting, Moscow
- 9 Tennis: Women: LTA satellite, Billesley, Birmingham (to 15); Athletics: Almond Blossom cross-country, Albufeira, Portugal; Dierckx cross-country, Luxembourg
- 10 Tennis: Men: Dubai open; Marcellis Open; LTA indoor satellite, Chigwell, Essex; Women: Open Gaz de France, Paris (all events to 16); Snooker: Venetian Globe due to finish, Les Sabes d'Olonne, France
- 12 Football: England v Italy, World Cup qualifying Group Two, Wembley; Athletics: Indoor meeting, Ghent
- 13 Golf: Dimension Data, Sun City, South Africa (to 16); Snooker: International Open, Aberdeen (to 23 Feb)
- 14 Cricket: England v New Zealand, Third Test, Christchurch (to 18); Athletics: IAAF indoor meeting, Karlsruhe
- 15 Football: FA Cup fifth round; Rugby union: Five Nations Championship, France v England, Dublin; Athletics: Indoor meeting, Vienna
- 16 Tennis: Women: LTA satellite, Redbridge (to 22); Athletics: IAAF indoor meeting, Lievin

- 17 Tennis: Men: European Community Championships, Antwerp; Kruger St. Jude tournament, Memphis; LTA satellite, Eastbourne; Women: Faber Grand Prix, Hannover; IGA Classic, Oklahoma City (all events to 23)
- 18 Athletics: IAAF indoor meeting, Moscow
- 19 Football: Coca-Cola Cup semi-final, first leg
- 20 Cricket: England v New Zealand, first one-day international, Christchurch; Golf: Alfred Dunhill South African PGA championship, Houghton, Johannesburg (to 23); Athletics: IAAF indoor meeting, Stockholm; IAAF Grand Prix Two event, Melbourne
- 22 Horse racing: Greenalls Gold Cup, Haydock; Sliding Men's Alpine World Cup (downhill, super-g), Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany (to 23); Rhythmic Gymnastics: British Championships, Milton Keynes (to 23); Athletics: IAAF indoor meeting, Athens
- 23 Cricket: England v New Zealand, second one-day international, Auckland; Football: Coca-Cola Cup semi-final, second leg

- 24 Tennis: Men: Advanta Championships, Philadelphia; Italian Indoor Championships, Milan (both to 2 Mar); LTA indoor satellite masters, Croydon (to 28); Women: Fed Cup, first round
- 26 Cricket: England v New Zealand, third one-day international, Napier; Snooker: SMC, Cnacs and Munnig 36s, Miami
- 27 Golf: Dubai Desert Classic, Emirates Club, Dubai (to 2 Mar)
- 28 Rallying: Safari Rally, Nairobi (to 3 Mar); Sliding Women's Alpine World Cup (two downhill), Nagano, Japan (to 1 Mar); Athletics: US indoor championships, Atlanta (to 1 Mar); First European Veterans Championships, Birmingham

MARCH

- 1 Cricket: England v New Zealand, fourth one-day international, Auckland; Rugby union: Five Nations Championship, Scotland v Ireland, Murrayfield; England v France, Twickenham; Sliding Men's Alpine World Cup (downhill, super-g), Kvitfjell, Norway (to 2); Athletics: Great Britain v Russia, indoor meeting, Glasgow; indoor meeting, Sindelfingen
- 2 Cycle: Speedway World Cup, Fimond, Australia
- 3 Tennis: Men: ABN/AMRO World Tennis Tournament, Rotterdam; Franklin Templeton Classic, Scottsdale, Ariz (both to 9 Mar); Women: Evert Cup, Indian Wells, Cal (to 15); Hockey: Men's World Cup qualifier, Kuala Lumpur (to 15)
- 4 Cricket: England v New Zealand, one-day international, Wellington
- 5 Football: European club competitions, quarter-finals, first leg; Hockey: Women's School Championship, Milton Keynes (to 6); Sliding Men's Alpine World Cup (slalom, giant slalom), Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy (to 26)

- 6 Golf: Moroccan Open (to 9); Sliding Women's Alpine World Cup (slalom, super-g), Mammoth Mountain, California (to 7)
- 7 Athletics: World Indoor Championships, Paris; Bery (to 9); High jump meeting, Wuppertal; NCAA Indoor Championships, Indianapolis (to 8)
- 8 Football: FA Cup, sixth round; Horse racing: Imperial Cup, Sandown; Rowing: Women's Head of the river
- 9 Motor racing: Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne; Athletics: San Vito cross-country; Cycle: speedway World Individual Championships, Salisbury, Australia
- 10 Tennis: Men: Newsweek Championships Cup, Indian Wells, Cal; Copenhagen Open (both to 16); Snooker: Thailand Open (to 16 Mar)
- 11 Horse racing: Cheltenham Gold Cup meeting (to 13)
- 12 Football: Coca-Cola Cup, semi-final, second leg; Sliding Alpine World Cup Finals (downhill, slalom, giant slalom, super-g), Vail, Colorado (to 16)
- 13 Golf: Portuguese Open (to 16)
- 14 Rallying: Welsh Rally, Mobil 1/Top Gear British Championship (to 15)
- 15 Rugby union: Five Nations Championship, Wales v England, Cardiff; France v Scotland, Paris; France v Scotland, Hong Kong (all events to 13)
- 16 Football: Coca-Cola Cup, semi-final, second leg; Figure Skating: World Championships, Lausanne (to 23); Hockey: Men's Golden Jubilee Six Nations Tournament, Karachi (to 23)
- 17 Tennis: Lipton Championships, Key Biscayne (to 29); Men: St Petersburg Open (to 23); Athletics: IAAF Grand Prix Two event, Johannesburg
- 18 Snooker: Benson & Hedges Irish Masters, Goffs (to 23)
- 19 Football: European club competitions, quarter-finals, second leg
- 20 Golf: Turespaa Masters (to 23)
- 21 Rugby union: World Cup Sevens, Hong Kong (to 23)
- 22 Horse racing: Lincoln Handicap, Doncaster; Rowing: Head of the River; Rallying: Portuguese Rally, Figueira da Foz (to 27); Cycling: World Cup, Milan to San Remo
- 23 Motor racing: British Formula 3 Championship, Donington; Athletics: World cross-country championships, Turin; Motorcycling: Superbike event, Phillip Island, Australia
- 24 Tennis: Men: Grand Prix Hassan II, Casablanca (to 30)
- 27 Golf: Madeira Island Open (to 30); Snooker: British Open, Plymouth (to 6 April)
- 28 Snooker: Rolex Cup, St Thomas, France (to 30); Hockey: European Cup, Wembley; Women's Cup tournament, Reading (to 31)
- 29 Football: Scotland v Estonia, World Cup qualifying Group Four, Hampden Park; Wales v Belgium, World Cup qualifying Group Seven, Cardiff; Northern Ireland v Portugal, World Cup qualifying Group Nine, Windsor Park; Speed Skating: World Short Track Championships, Nagano, Japan (to 30)
- 30 Motor racing: Brazilian Grand Prix, Interlagos, São Paulo

- 31 Motor racing: Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Donington; Horse racing: Irish Grand National, Fairyhouse; Tennis: Women: Family Circle Magazine Cup, Hilton Head Island, SC (to 6)

APRIL

- 2 Football: Scotland v Austria; World Cup qualifying Group Four, Hampden Park; Macedonia v Republic of Ireland, World Cup qualifying Group Eight; Ukraine v Northern Ireland, World Cup qualifying Group Nine
- 3 Horse racing: Grand National meeting, Aintree (to 5)
- 4 Tennis: Men: Davis Cup, World Group, second round; Euro-African Zone, Group 1, Great Britain v Ukraine or Zimbabwe, British venue the (to 6); Golf: Central England Open Men's Fourcours, Woodhall Spa (to 6)
- 5 Motor racing: Global Endurance GT race, Estoril, Portugal (to 6); Gymnastics: Great Britain v Russia, women's international (to 6); Rowing: Vesta Scullers Head of the River
- 6 Football: Coca-Cola Cup Final; Motor racing: British Formula 3 Championship, Silverstone; Cycling: World Cup, Tour of Flanders
- 7 Tennis: Women: Hanes & Lomb Championships, Amelia Island, Fla; Men: Estoril Open, Salem Open, Hong Kong (all events to 13)
- 8 Athletics: IAAF permit meeting, Cape Town
- 9 Football: European club competitions, semi-final, first leg
- 10 Golf: US Masters, Augusta, Georgia (to 13)
- 12 Cycling: World Cup, Paris to Roubaix
- 13 Football: FA Cup, semi-final; Motor racing: Argentinean Grand Prix, Buenos Aires; British Formula 3 Championship, Thruxton; Motorcycling: Malaysian Grand Prix, Shah Alam; Le Mans 24-hour Endurance race; Rallying: Spanish Rally, Lloret de Mar (to 16)
- 14 Tennis: Japan Open, Tokyo; men: Seat-Godo Open, Barcelona (both to 20)
- 15 Horse racing: Craven meeting, Newmarket (to 17)
- 18 Hockey: Women's inter league play-offs, Milton Keynes (to 20)
- 19 Rugby union: County Championship Final, Twickenham; Horse racing: Scottish Grand National, Ayr; Motor racing: Global Endurance GT race, Magyours, France (to 20); Snooker: Embassy World Championship, Sheffield (to 5 May)
- 20 Motor racing: Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Silverstone; Tennis: LTA spring satellite, venue the (to 27); Cycling: World Cup, Liège-Bastogne-Liège; Motorcycling: Japanese Grand Prix, Suzuka; Superbike event, Misano
- 21 Tennis: Men: US Clay Court Championships, Orlando; Monte Carlo Open; Women: Dammann Open 97, Jakarta; Budapest Loto Open, (all events to 27)
- 23 Football: European club competitions, semi-finals, second leg
- 24 Golf: Peugeot Spanish Open; West of England Stroke Play Championship, Royal North Devon (both to 27)
- 26 Horse racing: Whitbread Gold Cup, Sandown; Cycling: World Cup, Amstel Gold, Netherlands

- 1 London Marathon
- New Zealand v England First Test Second Test Third Test
- England v Australia First Test Second Test Third Test Fourth Test Fifth Test Sixth Test
- Wimbledon & Hedges Cup final
- NorthWest Trophy final
- Tour de France

- 13 April
- Auckland, 24-28 Jan Wellington, 6-10 Feb Christchurch, 14-18 Jan
- Edgbaston, 5-9 June Lord's, 19-23 June Old Trafford, 3-8 July Headingley, 24-28 July Trent Bridge, 7-11 July The Oval, 21-25 July
- Lord's, 12 July Lord's, 6 Sept
- 5-27 July

- 13 April
- Coca-Cola Cup final Dafa Cup final European Cup-Winners' Cup final FA Cup final Scottish Cup final European Cup final
- US Masters US Open The Open US PGA Championship
- Cheltenham Festival Grand National The Derby
- British Grand Prix Le Mans 24hr RAC Rally

- 7 and 22 August, 10-15 September, 12-15 September, 17-20 September, 14-17 September
- Augusta, 10-15 September, Bethesda, Maryland, 12-15 September, Royal Troon, 17-20 September, Winged Foot, 14-17 September
- Silverstone, 14-15 September, Chester, 21-22 September

MAY

- 1 Golf: Conte di Florence Italian Open (to 4)
- 3 Horse racing: 2,000 Guineas, Newmarket; Rugby union: Silk Cur Challenge Cup final, Wembley; Football: Nationwide League, final matches; Golf: Lytham Trophy, Royal Lytham & St Annes (to 4); Polo: Innerwick Challenge Cup, Ascot (to 5); Sports: Athletics: British Championships, Manchester Velodrome (to 4)
- 4 Horse racing: 1,000 Guineas, Newmarket; Rallying: French Rally and Tour of Corsica, Ajaccio (to 8); Tennis: LTA spring satellite, Lee-on-Solent (to 11); Athletics: Grand Prix meeting, Rio de Janeiro; Motorcycling: Spanish Grand Prix, Jerez; Superbike event, Donington Park
- 5 Tennis: Women: Italian Open, Rome; Fed Cup, Europe-Africa, Group 2, Antalya, Turkey; Men: German Open, Hamburg; America's Red Clay Championship, Coral Springs (all events to 11); Motor racing: Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Thruxton
- 7 Football: UEFA Cup Final, first leg
- 8 Golf: Benson and Hedges International Open, The Oxfords, Thame (to 11); Women's Estoril Open, Portugal (to 11); Equestrian: Badminton Three-day Event (to 11)
- 9 Gymnastics: British Championships, Guildford (to 11); Polo: Prince of Wales Trophy, RCBCP (to 25)
- 10 Rugby union: Pilkington Cup Final, Twickenham; Welsh Cup Final, Cardiff; Scottish Cup Final, Murrayfield; Motor racing: Global Endurance GT race, Silverstone (to 11); Golf: England v Spain, La Manga (to 11); Football: FA Premier League, final matches; Athletics: Grand Prix event, Osaka, Japan
- 11 Motor racing: Monaco Grand Prix

- Football: Nationwide League play-offs, semi-finals, first leg; Hockey: Men's HA Cup final, Milton Keynes; Tennis: Women: Welsh International open, Cardiff (to 18)
- 12 Tennis: Men: Italian Open Championships, Rome (to 18); LTA spring satellite masters, Cardiff (to 16); Women: German Open, Berlin (to 18); Snooker: Lymington Cup (to 17)
- 13 Horse racing: York main meeting (to 15); Polo: Royal Windsor Cup, Guards (to 1 June)
- 14 Football: European Cup-Winners' Cup final; Nationwide League play-offs, semi-finals, second leg; Equestrian: Royal Windsor Horse Show (to 18); Snooker: Boston to Guernsey race (to 30)
- 15 Cricket: Duke of Norfolk's XI v Australia, one-day game, Arundel; Golf: Alamo English Open (to 18); Women's Tour Players Classic, Macclesfield (to 18)
- 16 Golf: Brabazon Trophy, Saunton (to 18)
- 17 Football: FA Cup final; Horse racing: Lockinge Stakes, Newbury; Rugby union: Middlesex Sevens, Twickenham; Cricket: Northamptonshire v Australia, one-day game, Northampton; Cycling: Tour of Italy (to 8 June)
- 18 Football: FA Trophy final; Motor racing: Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Brands Hatch; British Formula 3 Championship, Croft; Motorcycling: Italian Grand Prix, Mugello; Snooker: Anglo-Welsh Cup Final, the
- 19 Tennis: Men: Peugeot ATP Tour World Team Cup, Dis-seldorf; St P0lten International Grand Prix, Austria; Women's Strasbourg International; Open Paginas Amarillas Villa de Madrid (all events to 24)
- 20 Cricket: Durham v Australia, one-day game, Chester-le-Street; Rallying: Argentine Rally, Cordoba (to 24); Cycling: Manx International, Douglas, Isle of Man; Polo: Warwickshire Cup, Cirencester (to 1 June)
- 21 Football: UEFA Cup final, second leg; Tennis: Women: World Doubles Cup, Edinburgh (to 24); Snooker: Medenbalk week, Netherlands (to 25)
- 22 Cricket: England v Australia, first one-day international, Headingley; Equestrian: Windsor International Horse Trials (to 25); Rhythmic Gymnastics: European Championships, Greece (to 25); Golf: Women's Czech Republic Open, Prague (to 25)
- 23 Golf: Volvo PGA championship, Wentworth (to 26); Rowing: National Schools Regatta, Worcester (to 25)

JUNE

- 1 Motor racing: British Formula 3 Championship, Silverstone; Motorcycling: Austrian Grand Prix, Osterreichring; Snooker: Round Europe race; Cheltenham to Stockton (to 21); Athletics: IAAF Grand Prix Two event, St Denis; Hockey: Women's Champions Trophy, Berlin (to 8)
- 2 Golf: British Amateur Championship, Royal St Georges & Royal Cinque Ports (to 7)
- 3 Athletics: IAAF Grand Prix Two event, Bratislava; Polo: Queens Cup, Guards (to 22)
- 4 Rugby union: Transvaal v Lions, Johannesburg; Golf: English Open Senior Championship, West Hill & Woking (to 6)
- 5 Cricket: England v Australia first Test, Edgbaston; Golf: Staley Hall Northern Ireland Challenge, Staley Hall, Heston (to 8); Women's Danish Open, Vejle (to 8); Athletics: IAAF Grand Prix event, Rome
- 6 Horse racing: The Oak Epsom

POLO RALPH THE FITNESS

July 1995

SEPTEMBER

- Compiled by Mark Burton**

international

Mystery blast as rebels hold firm in Peru siege

Phil Davison
Latin America Correspondent

A mystery explosion, apparently from a grenade or dynamite, rocked the besieged Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima early yesterday, raising initial speculation that hostages may have been hurt or that an SAS-style military assault may have begun.

Troops and police forming a cordon around the building took cover but there was no sign of activity within the walled compound and the situation quickly returned to normal.

Police suggested that the Tupac Amaru guerrillas holding 104 distinguished hostages may have set off the explosives as a warning to the authorities. A Red Cross spokesman claimed the blast was caused by an animal treading on a mine laid by the rebels in the compound.

There was no sign of damage to the building or reports of injury. Some of the more than 400 hostages freed since the rebels stormed a Christmas cocktail party have reported that the guerrillas, said to include a 16-



Ailing diplomat Kenji Hirata being freed on a wheelchair

year-old girl, are carrying backpacks loaded with explosives, ready to blow up themselves and the building if troops attack. They claim to have laid mines or dynamite on the roof and all around the building in Lima's exclusive San Isidro district. About 1,000 troops and

police have encircled the residence at a distance of 100 yards, spending most of their time keeping hundreds of journalists at bay.

The rebels freed an ailing Japanese diplomat on Christmas Day. Kenji Hirata, First Secretary at the embassy, was brought out in a wheelchair by International Red Cross workers, his head slumped to one side, and driven off in ambulance. He was said to be suffering from dehydration.

Hostages and rebels received a Christmas Day treat when President Fujimori's daughter, Keiko - Peru's First Lady since his divorce - and a group of white-uniformed waiters delivered 10 turkeys to a spot close to the building. Red Cross workers took the food inside.

Water, electricity and phone lines to the building have been cut off to heighten the pressure on the rebels. Drinking water and food is being allowed in but the few lavatories are over-used and hygiene is becoming a problem. One freed hostage said Peru's Foreign Minister, Francisco Tudela, still being

held, had joined others in cleaning the lavatories. Such reports brought wry smiles from poor Peruvians, many of whom sympathise with the rebels while mostly condemning their methods. "The diplomats and businessmen who are living with too many people in too little space and with inadequate food and water and medicine are now living like the majority of Peruvians," said Hernando de Soto, a former adviser to President Fujimori who now attacks his economic policies.

The Tupac Amaru guerrillas are demanding populist economic policies, freedom for hundreds of their jailed comrades, safe passage out of the besieged building to an unknown location and an unspecified "war tax" of cash.

Diplomats in Lima say at least two Japanese corporations have made cash offers to buy the freedom of executives held hostage. The rebels are holding more than two dozen Japanese businessmen for no apparent reason other than their ransom value, the diplomats noted.

Frankfurt pays tribute to German's grenade victims



After a deadly Christmas: Candles lit on the steps of the church where the grenades went off

Photograph: AP

Church bombs mother 'lonely and disturbed'

Inre Karacs
Bonn

A lonely mother with psychiatric problems was responsible for the Christmas Eve grenade attack on a Frankfurt church, in which she and two other people were killed and 13 injured.

A day after issuing a reconstructed picture of the attacker, police identified her as a 49-year-old from Usinger, a village in the Taunus hills north of Frankfurt. Out of respect for the family, the police would not name her, and there were still no clues about her motives.

All that was known is that she separated from her husband a year ago, leaving her nine-year-old daughter in the father's care. She lived alone in her flat, and is thought to have travelled to Frankfurt on Christmas Eve by public transport.

Police believe she hit upon the church in Sindlingen at random, though the family had lived in the same district in the 1980s. None of the people touched by the bombing remembered her.

There is speculation that she might have intended only to kill herself, not realising the effect the blast would have on those near her.

Seventy people were in the church when the grenades detonated. Two sisters seated next to her in the third pew from the back died instantly. A mother and her 12-year-old daughter were seriously injured. While the girl's condition improved slightly yesterday, her mother remained on the critical list. "With no suicide note" to explain her actions, the authorities can still only speculate about her motives. One theory is that her actions were prompted by a film which was shown on German television last week, in which a person committed suicide in a church during the Christmas service.

Mystery also surrounds the origins of the two grenades that were strapped to her body and detonated simultaneously as the congregation began to sing the first hymn. The grenades were made in Eastern Europe. Though such weapons can be obtained on the black market, particularly in eastern Germany, she would have had to have been quite resourceful to locate them. The police have

One theory is that her action was prompted by a film on TV

ruled out a political or terrorist motive for the tragedy.

"Christmas has brought us more questions than answers this year," Bernd Wangerin, the tight-knit community pastor, told worshippers at a memorial service yesterday. The congregation met at the Arche Community church half a mile away from the damaged church, which remained closed. "We have injuries among us in spirit and in body," he said in his sermon. "But the injuries among us will bind us together."

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Ronnie Scott

"His mother was a tried lady - she was the Southern Area Light Heavyweight Champion." Ronnie Scott's much-repeated jokes made him almost as famous as his tenor saxophone playing and the London jazz club that bore his name.

Frequently his jokes were about the size of the club's audience on a bad night: "It was so small we opened up with 'I'm a Fool for You', or, if he felt the listeners weren't showing enough enthusiasm, 'Let's join hands and try to make contact with the heavens'." "You've made a happy man very old", Nonetheless, Ronnie Scott's, which he and Pete King founded in 1959, was one of the most eminent jazz clubs in the world, and one of the most successful in Europe.

Scott, along with his friend Tubby Hayes who died in 1973, was amongst the most highly rated and universally recognised of all British jazz musicians, highly popular in Australia and Europe and one of the few Europeans who could draw audiences to the New York jazz clubs.

He was an outstanding tenor saxophone player with an inventive style of his own who admitted the American players Hank Mobley, Stan Getz, Sonny Rollins and Joe Henderson amongst his influences. He disparaged his own playing, and the continuing disappointment and deep frustration of his life was that he never met the ideal standards he had set for himself. He was a modest man and a brilliant raconteur who, although he always claimed his jokes were lousy, was unapproachably funny whether on stage or in normal conversation.

His powers of observation and recall of both minor detail and major disaster made people relish his compering as much as his modern and eloquent music. "I remember touring Ireland with the Ted Heath band when a chap came up and asked if we played requests. Ted

told him we would try and asked him what he would like to hear. 'Oh, anything at all', said the Irishman."

Scott's humour took on practical manifestations. While touring Britain with the American brass men Clark Terry, Bob Brookmeyer, Maynard Ferguson and others, the group's coach was nearing the Scottish border. It pulled off the road and on to a large car park, and halted beside a large shed. Scott shouted "Quick, everyone in a line." When the Americans lined up in the aisle of the coach Scott checked that each one had his passport in his left hand. Then he led them off the bus in an orderly file into what turned out to be a transport café.

His father, Jack Scott, who abandoned his family in 1931, had also been a saxophonist and band leader, and Ronnie began taking saxophone lessons from Jack Lewis (who was later to marry Vera Lynn) and Harry Gold when he was 15. "Harry Gold was very helpful, but the best tip he gave me was never to wear brown shoes with a blue suit."

Scott won his first job with Felix Mendelssohn's band and began playing frequently in the various London clubs when he was 16. After work for several leaders including Carlo Krahmer and Cab Kaye, he joined the band led by the trumpeter Johnny Claes in October 1944.

During the period of post-war austerity he played with Denis Rose's band and Sid Millward's Swing Circus and did Ensa work (for the troops) and concerts for factory workers with the pianist Pat Kaye and the saxophonist Jimmy Skidmore. He joined the Ted Heath Band in February 1946 and stayed for a year.

Drawn by the turbulent events in contemporary American jazz he then took the first of many jobs playing in bands on board the transatlantic liners. The British jazz musicians who grabbed this, their only

chance to visit the States, became known as Gerald's Navy (the band leader Gerald worked as musical director for Cunard). The turn-around time gave the young jazz musicians a few days in New York to listen to Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk and the pioneers of Be-bop in the flesh, and Scott's own playing gained immeasurably from this exposure to their music.

Back home in October 1947 Scott joined Tito Burns, an accordionist who was trying to popularise Be-bop with British audiences, and stayed for a year. He worked with Ambrose's Orchestra and then became a founder member of the Club Eleven Band.

This was a group of would-be Be-bop musicians which met in a shabby basement in Archer Street in Soho. The trumpeter Denis Rose, slightly older than the rest, was their musical guru. His progressive thinking inspired them, and he was a gifted teacher. "I got most of my theory from Denis," said Scott, "but then so did everyone else. Even in the best of bands the professional life of a musician represented a constant artistic compromise because the music we had to play in order to live wasn't the music we lived to play." There were 11 musicians, including Johnny Dankworth, Hank Shaw, Lennie Bush and Tony Crombie, as well as Scott and a manager, hence the group's name.

They presented concerts in London and Birmingham, with one from April 1949, featuring Denis Rose in the Ronnie Scott Band, appearing on record.

Scott continued his transatlantic travels and worked with the bands of Vic Lewis and Jack Parnell before forming his own regular group in 1952. He augmented the line-up in 1955 in an attempt to appeal to wider audiences. "When we were auditioning for a girl singer about 30 girls turned up. Twenty-nine of them sang 'The Lady Is A Tramp' all wrong and the other

one sang 'Deed I Do' all on one note. We had the audition, really, so that the band could have a good laugh."

In 1957 Scott was established enough to take a sabbatical of his own to the States and soon after he formed The Jazz Couriers, a very successful quintet with a two tenor front line co-led by Tubby Hayes.

He opened the first Ronnie Scott Club in Gerrard Street in London in October 1959, moved to Friar Street in 1965 and opened a Birmingham branch in October 1991. Despite many hair-raising financial moments, the clubs burgeoned, largely due to the intelligence and skills of Pete King, who gave up saxophone-playing to be the business manager. Scott was usually resident with his quartet and the London club became a showplace for the greatest talents in the world, providing a major platform for American giants like Zoot Sims, Sonny Rollins, Stan Getz and the Buddy Rich Big Band.

"Jack Jones regularly visits the club when he is in London," said Scott. "I remember one evening when we had a castler on the door who was not really *au fait* with that sort of guest. She told Jack he could come in free but his friend would have to pay. His friend was Tony Bennett."

Scott experimented with free form jazz, too, although he didn't go as far as Archie Shepp, an American avant-garde tenor saxophonist whose band featured at the club playing 30 minute incompressible "free" outbursts. One night during Shepp's season there, the tenor saxist Stan Getz and Coleman Hawkins were sitting at a table. "Hey," said Hawkins to Getz in the middle of such an onslaught, "they're playing our tune."

Another of Scott's idols, the tenor player Dexter Gordon, accused him of playing "all that free shit". Scott denied it: "I don't play free. I play very cheaply, but I don't play free."



Scott outside the London jazz club that bears his name - a showplace for the greatest jazz talents in the world Photograph: Redferns

Ill health and dental surgery had caused Ronnie Scott to take rests from playing in recent years, though he had been planning to play again in the club on Christmas Eve. For many years his humour graced the BBC quiz programme *Jazz Score* where he was predictably one of

the best raconteurs, and his many records under his own name, made from 1949 onwards, are much sought after by collectors. In 1979 he published *Some Of My Best Friends Are Blues*, written with Mike Hennessey, and co-operated with John Fordham for the 1995

Jazzman: the amazing story of Ronnie Scott and his club, a comprehensive account of his life and times in jazz. He was appointed OBE in 1981. He never married, but is survived by two children.

"All the great jazzmen are going," he said when he heard of

the death of Stan Getz in 1991. "I don't feel so good myself."

Steve Voe

Ronnie Scott (Ronnie Scott), saxophonist, band leader and club owner; born London 28 January 1927; OBE 1981; died London 23 December 1996.

Ted Leadbitter



Leadbitter: assiduous

Membership of the Chairmen's Panel of the House of Commons is the title accorded to those MPs who chair Standing Committees on Bills of the House of Commons. "Upstairs on the committee corridor" their authority really matters, and a good chairman can contribute to the quality of scrutiny of a Bill. Some of my parliamentary colleagues have a talent for being good committee chairmen; others simply turn out not to have the knack.

One Labour Member in recent times who did have talent and knack was Betty Boothroyd, she made her name and reputation on the committee corridor. A decade earlier, another who made his name and might well have become a chairman or deputy chairman of Ways and Means, was Ted Leadbitter. His success was neither foreseeable nor foreseen for, to be candid, on the floor he was often blustering, opinionated and verbose. But he was an excellent chairman and came into his own as a parliamentary performer.

Ted Leadbitter - no one called him Edward, other than he himself, when he was getting on his high horse on the telephone to some functionary whom he suspected did not

recognise the importance of a Member of the House of Commons - was born and went to school in Eastington, Co Durham. His father and family on his mother's side were miners. His appetite for public life was whetted by the election campaign of 1935, when as a teenager he delivered leaflets, climbed telegraph poles, and placed graffiti on all sorts of places where it was unwelcome, and probably unlawful, in the cause of the Labour candidate - Manny Shinwell.

Shinwell triumphed over his opponent, the National Labour candidate and former prime minister Ramsay MacDonald, by a staggering 38,380 (68.2 per cent) to 17,882 (31.8 per cent). "It was the happiest moment other than when I married Irene of my life," Leadbitter told me.

When Leadbitter arrived in 1935, the National Labour candidate and former prime minister Ramsay MacDonald, by a staggering 38,380 (68.2 per cent) to 17,882 (31.8 per cent). "It was the happiest moment other than when I married Irene of my life," Leadbitter told me.

On 15 November 1979 Leadbitter had on the Commons order paper this question: To ask the Prime Minister if she will make a statement on recent evidence concerning the actions of an individual whose name has been supplied to her in relation to the security of the United Kingdom.

The Prime Minister's reply electrified the House and the country. It read simply: "The name which the Honourable Member for Hartlepool has given me is that of Sir Anthony Blunt."

Blunt was the Keeper of the Queen's Pictures and an art historian of international significance and fame.

Thatcher made her celebrated statement on 21 November 1979, and was criticised by Philip Hamilton, then the MP for Central Essex for doing it on the day that there was a 3 per cent rise in the minimum lending rate. Hamilton accused her of playing politics in her timing. Leadbitter intervened to say that Hamilton was wrong and that it was he who had insisted that she make the statement on that particular day.

Blunt was the subject of the one searing row I had with Leadbitter in 28 years of parliamentary friendship. I fear I started it.

Ted, it was quite unnecessary to do this to Blunt. If Sir Charles Cunningham and successive Permanent Secretaries of the Home Office and successive prime ministers and Home Secretaries of both parties could sleep easily at night in the knowledge of the actions of an individual whose name has been supplied to her in relation to the security of the United Kingdom.

Leadbitter's reply revealed a lot about his attitudes. Traitors must be unmasked and it's not their duty to do so. Now, why do you take Blunt's part?

I said that as a 15-year-old I had been in a group of boys taken round the Courtland by Blunt and that he'd given us an understanding of Poussin and the French Impressionists which had enriched our lives. Leadbitter exploded:

Bloody idiot! Why the hell should there be special treatment for Blunt and his life? It's my responsibility as a Member of Parliament to deal with these upper-class spies.

He was genuinely enraged by what he saw as special treatment for those and such of those - because he really did believe in equality. Some days later when he had calmed down I tried to reason with him that in order for an agent to get information he had to give some information and anyway the Soviets were allies and the intelligence comings and goings of the Second World War were exceedingly complex matters to be seen in various shades of grey.

Leadbitter would have none of it; he reverted to being the orthodox patriotic gun instructor officer which he had been during the war. He deeply resented the idea that Labour Members of Parliament should be perceived as any less patriotic than Conservative Members.

My first clear memory of the former Mayor of the Hartle-

pool is when he couldn't contain himself and gave me a speech of 14 December 1962 by Rear-Admiral Morgan Morgan-Giles, the Conservative MP for Winchester. Morgan-Giles was going on at length about three categories of Labour MPs: Leadbitter exploded:

I'm an ex-serviceman myself. There are Honourable Members on this side of the House who fought for King, Queen and country in both wars.

I suggest that rather than spend his time analysing his so-called groups on this side of the House, he should look about to see if there is one group over there at the moment.

Few of the admiral's parliamentary colleagues had deemed him worth listening to.

During the 1964 General Election Leadbitter had accused the sitting MP of cowardice, and not being prepared to stand in an election against him. Even if it had been true of a candidate unwilling to lose his seat and wanting to participate in a chicken run - which it wasn't in this case - it was thought an odd charge. Since the sitting MP was Commander Karanas, who had famously won the Victoria Cross taking HMS *Amethyst* up the Yangtze river. Accusing a holder of the Victoria Cross of cowardice revealed a certain flaw in Leadbitter's judgement, which

was part of the reason he was never given the ministerial office he craved, though he deserved and where I believe on account of his sincerity and hard work he would have been a success.

In Parliament he championed the cause of teachers, his own profession, and of teacher training. He was a prominent member of the Science and Technology Select Committee and displayed a knowledge and genuine belief in nuclear power which was not only derived from the fact that as the chairman of key committees of the Hartlepool Council he had done much to facilitate the arrival of the Hartlepool nuclear power station for his constituency. One witness at the Select Committee recalls Leadbitter as a champion of the nuclear industry with affection. "You could be sure that his questions would occupy one and a half columns of the proceedings. The answer was either 'Yes, sir' or 'No, sir', but we in the nuclear industry knew that he was our public friend."

Leadbitter told me that he was sad to leave the House of Commons but pleased that Hartlepool's Labour Party should have selected Peter Mandelson. He said:

I have been, though I say it myself, a most assiduous and locally immersed Hartlepool MP. I have been the 'centre ball back' of the continued existence of the Hartlepool Football Club and the bun of much ribaldry. Now the town deserves someone completely opposite from me who can achieve national prominence and in so doing help the excellent people who have served me, worked with me and been my friends.

Mandelson himself said of Leadbitter:

He was constantly generous to me and about me. He felt that he had passed on a baton, a torch for Hartlepool. He was MP during a period of immense industrial change for the town. He stood for townspeople through a period of vast economic change with industries thrown out the scrapheap. He never lost sight of the need to focus on the future.

For all his vituperations Ted Leadbitter was a big-hearted and generous man. It was fitting that he should be the first ever Freeman of the Hartlepool and be accorded the honour of being a Freeman of the City of London.

Tim Dalyell

Edward Leadbitter, politician and teacher; born Eastington, Co Durham 18 June 1919; MP (Labour) for the House of Commons but pleased that Hartlepool's Labour Party should have selected Peter Mandelson. He said:

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

LEVETRE, Sally, aged 60, on Sunday morning, 23 December, very peacefully, calmly and gently, in St Joseph's Hospice, Mary St, London E8. Her life, like her voice, was soft and low, an excellent thing in women, but it reached out to touch the lives of countless others with tenderness, care and love. The funeral service, which will be quiet and for family and her closest friends, will be at 2.15pm on Thursday 2 January, at St Giles without Cripplegate, the Barbican church in Finsbury, London EC2. The service of Thanksgiving for her life will be at 4.30pm on Saturday 12 February, also at St Giles, where all who come to this celebration will be properly remembered and thanked. No flowers, by her request; donations in her memory to Help the Hospices, 34 Botolph Claydon, London WC1X 9JG.

WRIGHT, Edna, 23 December 1996, peacefully at home, William Wright, aged 65 years. The dearly beloved husband of Elizabeth, much loved father of Cathy and Richard, and a very dear grandfather. The funeral will take place on Saturday 28 December, with a church service at Melior Church at Usam, followed by a committal at Stockport Crematorium at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Macmillan Nurses or Marie Curie Nurses. All enquiries and donations to Brian Sharples & Son, 52 Stockport Road, Maple, Stockport, Cheshire. Telephone 0161 427 2079.

For Gazette, please telephone 0171-263 2811.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment escorts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Birthdays

Mr Hugh Arbuthnot, former ambassador to Denmark, 60; Mrs Anne Armstrong, company director and former US ambassador to Britain, 66; Viscount Astor, former government minister, 45; Mr Christopher Brunton, company chairman, 75; M Gerard Depardieu, actor, 48; Sir Thomas Devitt, former rugby player and shipbroker, 94; Lord Griffiths of Friborough, banking and finance authority, 55; Air Chief Marshal Sir Derek Hodgkinson, former Air Secretary, 79; Mr Mick Jones, rock musician, 33; Professor Brimley Jones, classical scholar, 77; Sir Norman Reid, former director of the Tate Gallery, 81; Dr Edward Salhouse, Master, University College, Durham, 61; Lord Sterling of Plaistow, chairman, P & O, 62; Miss Janet Street-Porter, broadcaster and writer, 50; Miss Polly Toynbee, writer, 50; The Right Rev Michael Turnbull, Bishop of Durham, 61; Brigadier Dame Mary Twiss, former Director of the WRAC, 93.

Anniversaries

Births: Louis Pasteur, chemist and bacteriologist, 1822; Sir Mackenzie Bowell, statesman, 1823; Sir William Henry Hadow, educationist and musical scholar, 1859; Sydney Greenstreet, actor, 1878; Louis Bromfield, novelist, 1896; Carl Zuckmayer, playwright, 1897; Mariette Dietrich (Maria Magdalena Dietrich), actress, 1901; Oscar Levant, popular composer and pianist, 1906. Deaths:

Pierre de Ronsard, poet, 1595; Hyacinthe-François Honoré-Mathias Pierre-Mary André-Jean Rigault, painter, 1743; Charles Lamb, author and essayist, 1834; Stephen Joseph Perry, Jesuit and astronomer, 1889; Charles Martin Hall, chemist and mineralogist, 1914; William Archer, dramatic critic and playwright, 1924; Anatoli Vasilievich Lunacharsky, Russian leader and writer, 1933; Amy Mary Cheney Beach, composer and pianist; Nikolai Pashin, Egyptian minister, assassin, 1948; Max Beckmann, expressionist painter, 1950; Houari Boumedienne (Mohammed ben Ibrahim Boukharrouba), statesman, 1978; Howard Hoggard (Hoggy) Carmichael, composer, singer and pianist, 1981. On this day the island of St Helena was chartered to the East India Company, 1673; England and Portugal signed the Methuen Treaty, which gave preference to Portuguese wines, 1703; Holland was invaded by the French, 1794; Charles Darwin set sail for a world voyage on HMS *Beagle*, 1831; in New York City, the foundation stone was laid of the Cathedral of St John the Divine, 1892; Peter Pan, the children's play by J.M. Barrie, was first performed, London, 1904; in the Soviet Union, Leon Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party, 1927; in New York, Radio City Music Hall was opened, 1932; violent earthquakes in Anatolia, Turkey, resulted in over 10,000 deaths, 1939; the international Monetary Fund was set up in Washington, 1945; in Hungary, Archbishop Jozsef Mindszenty was arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment, 1948; in the North Sea, the BP oil rig *Sea Gem* capsized and sank with the loss of 13 lives, 1965; Spain became a democracy after 40 years of dictatorship, 1978; President Hafizullah Amin of Afghanistan was overthrown after a Russian-sponsored coup d'état, 1979. Today is the Feast Day of St Fabian, St John the Evangelist, St Nicarete and Saints Theodore and Theophanes Cypriot.

Church appointments

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Ian Efron, Assistant Curate, Agency, Nottingham (South): to be Priest-in-Charge, Colchester New Town and The Hyde St, Stephen, St Mary Magdalene and St Leonard, Colchester. The Rev John Lawson, Team Vicar, the Downside House Ministry (Walsfield) to continue as Team Vicar for a further period of two years. The Rev Brian Matthews OBE, Chaplain, St Michael's, Dorset: to be Priest-in-Charge, Colchester New Town and The Hyde St, Stephen, St Mary Magdalene and St Leonard, Colchester. The Rev Peter Owen-Jones, Curate, Levering and Montague House NHS Trust: to be full-time Chaplain to Downside Royal Infirmary and Montague House NHS Trust (Sheffield).

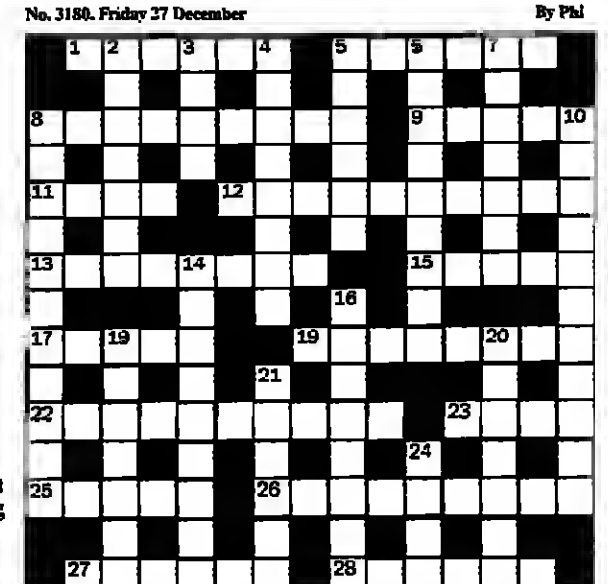
Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 3.42pm. United Synagogue: 0171-587 4380. Reform Synagogue: 0181-282 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogue of Great Britain 0181-549 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1024.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3180, Friday 27 December

By Phil



- ACROSS
- 1 Attractive - that's to say, uncommonly nice (6)
 - 5 May I entertain? (6)
 - 8 A high-class doctor gets into drunken orgy mood with the social elite (4, 5)
 - 9 State papers implicating student (5)
 - 11 Little girl producing audibly funeral sound (4)
 - 12 Not really checking a garment's size (6, 2, 2)
 - 13 Treatment for hands gets one with tip of cuticle wrapped in dung (8)
 - 15 Daggers that can be seen in strobe-lighting (5)
 - 17 Most of Mediterranean area rejected type of orange? (5)
 - 19 Automatic correction I can provide, modifying spelling of "something" (8)
 - 22 Old lady with information on artist in one field of music (5, 5)
 - 23 Stone, round and almost white (4)
 - 25 French city where French and English are found in service (5)
 - 26 A stupid sheep knocked over a plant (9)
 - 27 Clip? Almost strike hard (6)
 - 28 Front of hedge behind which I'd a lair concealed (6)
- DOWN
- 2 Minister ignoring a film-star (7)
 - 3 Unfeeling letter from
 - 4 Greece given to doctor (4)
 - 6 Study recipe held by generous colleague (8)
 - 5 Cry going up: "It's a bird!" (6)
 - 6 In unusual guise, ogre is very prominent (9)
 - 7 One brought in to colonise US city (7)
 - 8 One having lots of accounts of riverside conservation? (4, 7)
 - 10 Phi's brought in to sort out complaints in this part of the country (6, 5)
 - 14 Accountant encouraged
 - 16 one active in Scotland? (9)
 - 17 Education programme? Open University runs in to educate (8)
 - 18 Bridge? See a French nobleman enthralled by it (7)
 - 20 I'm getting beans - just a sudden idea (7)
 - 21 Odds on whip making a big impression (6)
 - 24 I'm a composer, by the way (4)

Thursday's solution

ACROSS
1. URBAN
2. FISH
3. BIRD
4. CRY
5. CRY
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100. CRY

Dear Miss Nomer

Rarely has a mistake had such happy consequences. Our invitation to readers to emulate one of our writers' errors, and create new works by slightly mischosen authors, brought a flood of brilliance. So, as Robert Frost put it: 'Hello, good evening and welcome'

A HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY by Ken Russell

The setting is Ancient Greece but for reasons of economy the action takes place on the shores of Derwent Water in the Lake District. Centre stage is a large barrel (sponsored by the Diogenes Barrel Co of Keswick). Around it a troupe of large-breasted girls in various stages of undress dances to Mahler's Fifth. In the barrel sits Irene Descartes - a transvestite philosopher.

ID: I stink, therefore I might even ... *Non.*
I fornicate, therefore I could well ... *non* ...
I think ... I think this is the wrong line of enquiry.

Enter Jean-Paul Sartre

ID: Hey, Jean-Paul! How is the existentialism business?

J-P S: Ah! *Malherbe* alors! I 'aven't 'ad a decent *acte gratuit* for bloody weeks. (*Nudges ID and winks*)

Dis-moi, mon ami. Zis Wordsworth. Ees eet truc ee 'as sex wiz 'iz sister?

Randall Wehh, Twickenham

LUCKY JIM by Martin Amis

"They made a fucking silly mistake, though," the Professor of Communication said, and his teeth sank beneath his vodka-racked features like black spooks retreating into shadow. "We were covering a tit-shoot, getting the angles on the angles. My piece was for Bronco, and young Johns was being serious for *Gender Review*. But the doll assistant must have got it wrong, or not been listening. Anyway, there it was in *GR* as large as arseing life: 'Maggie and Selina - jugs and rugs.' Replying with his coke-snorting face, Dixon picked up his professor round the waist, squeezed the furry grey-blue waistcoat against him to expel the breath, ran heavily with him up the steps to the john, and plunged the too-small feet in their capless shoes into a lavatory basin, pulling the plug once, twice, and again, stuffing the mouth with toilet-paper, until it stopped trying to speak or breathe ...

Jonathan Osmond, Penarth

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS by John Buchan

It was August and my friends had all left town. One afternoon, as I strolled down Piccadilly, wondering why I didn't join them, I chanced upon a friend I hadn't seen since Potgietersrust.

"Why Christian!" I cried. "You look down in the month. And ready for a journey too," I added, for I had espied his old Pioneer Corps kit-bag which gave the game away well and truly.

"You're right, Dick," said he. "I've had just about all a man can take here. Europe is a powder-keg just now, and this city is headed for destruction, that's for sure. Archie Evangelist - fellow in my club - says the place to be is Lord's, where a man can breathe God's fresh air and mix with the right sort. But tell me, Dick, why does Christiana refuse to join me? Anyone can see that this place is a wilderness."

AW Brooke, Petworth, West Sussex

JUDE THE OBSCURE by Oliver Hardy

Jude and Sue finished their breakfast and they got up to leave. Jude pulled his bowler hat down firmly, adjusted his braces and ruffled Sue's hair, before they walked quickly across Christminster to their lodgings.

On reaching the place and going upstairs, narrowly dodging the piano coming the other

way, they went into their rooms. Jude was hushing himself with making drinks for the children when he heard a shriek and saw Sue collapsed on the floor. In horror he went over and saw the children hanging from the ceiling with glazed looks in their eyes. Then he spotted the note in Little Jude's writing. "Done because we are too menny".

Jude took off his hat. "That's another fine mess you've gotten us into, Little Jude," he said ruefully.

Hugh Westbrook, London N10

THE MAGIC ROUNDOUBT by Hunter S Thompson

"The sugar started kicking in about 20 miles past the roundabout. And suddenly these huge paper flowers were everywhere, their razor-white petals looking like Ninja death stars. It was only a matter of time until black-hooded kittens started falling from the sky, but no point telling the rabbit about it, he'd see them soon enough. I'd already had to spray the rabbit down with Mace once today when he'd picked up some deformed Nazi hitch-hiker. Girls with heads that big don't just skip round magic gardens, no they're all intimately related to heavy backwoods law enforcement officers called Zebbedee and judges called Mr McHenry. Just the kind of people you want dropping the hammer when you're a wagon load of dangerous and illegal glucose on your caboose. Shit, we even had granulated," said Dougal.

Clive Frayne, Chester le Street, Co Durham

THE TRAGICAL HISTORY OF DR FAUSTUS by Tony Marlow MP

When we bear one rack the name of Clarke, Abjure the Treaty and the Ecu too, We fly, in hope to get his glorious vote. Yet this is Eurohell, nor am I out of it: Thinkst thou that I who could yet be a minister, And have a limo and a driver too, Am not tormented with ten thousand helms In being deprived of everlasting bliss? The polls bode ill, time runs, election looms, Union will come and Tony must be damn'd. So I'll leap back to Major who pulls me down? It is Bill Cash, who when the world dissolves, Will stop it with a point of order deftly placed. O be is fairer than the evening air, Supported by a million blue-rinse votes And none but he shall be my guiding star.

G Langley, Bristol

TRAINSPOTTING by John Walsh

SPLAT - a large drop of gob hit target. Your hero skipped nimbly out of the way. An unmistakable sound of serious vomiting came from behind me and turning, I skidded on a patch of what was most probably a product of an orifice found below the belt. There, a near-nude Kate Moss lookalike lay, sicking up her guts, a pile of abandoned syringes adjacent, very *Late Gallery* conceptual. My guide, whose tumescent tale *Up Ya Nose* had just made the Booker shortlist, kicked her in the ribs. "Fucking well get oop," I winced. Though used to scenes of genteel debauchery at the Groucho Club, I couldn't stand by and let a woman be kicked when she was down. Besides, there was a certain little come-bither sparkle in the dilated pupils of her large blue eyes ...

Stella Marshall, Hook, Hants



The opera house that never got built: Zaha Hadid with a model of her rejected masterpiece

Prize misjudgement

ANNUS HORRIBILIS

This was the year in which Zaha Hadid's great design for Cardiff Opera House was finally killed, despite the fact that she won an open competition. By Jonathan Glancey

Zaha Hadid is one of the most imaginative architects working in Britain today, but as she says, there are only three things people know about her: that she is Iraqi, a woman and a Muslim. The last isn't true, but it would spoil the picture if she weren't, for Hadid has been portrayed by those who would deny her work as some sort of female Saddam Hussein charged with a mission of destroying the face of British architecture as we know it and really want it: tweedy, drear and effete.

In fact, Hadid, who was born in Iraq but has not set foot there for very many years, draws and paints like an angel, is very funny, immensely bright and a charge of colour the British architectural canvas can only gain from.

Last year was, without doubt, her *annus horribilis*. Hadid was robbed of the commission she won fairly and squarely through an open international competition to design a new opera house for Cardiff. She liked Sir Norman Foster into second place, which is going some. She produced what is, without doubt, one of the great unbuild buildings of Britain.

So what went wrong? The burghers of Cardiff took against Hadid and all her works, that's what. It was a squalid business. The idea had been a grand and even a visionary one: the Cardiff Bay Development

Corporation was to commission a spectacular new opera house in the sweeping setting of the newly resurrected Cardiff Bay, turning what is effectively a sea-side sewer into a stretch of urban coastline that would attract critical attention and visitors from all over the world. The competition attracted an inordinate number of entries from all over the world, with many of the most fêted architects taking part. Was Cardiff proud of this? Not at all.

When Hadid's inspiring scheme was announced as the winner, the Cardiff Bay boys, together with the chaps at the Millennium Commission, who were to a large extent to have footed the bill, set about nailing it. They succeeded. Polls proved that local opinion was against such a radical design, which was hardly surprising as the public is against any interesting new building, coming to terms with them 50 or 100 years down the line. St Pancras,

the Law Courts in the Strand, and the Lloyds Building in the City of London were all abominations in the public mind at the time they were built. Today, the first two are Grade One Listed and much loved, and Lloyds, Richard Rogers' masterpiece, is slowly, slowly going the same way.

Hadid was undermined and her scheme sunk. Before abandoning the opera house project altogether, the Cardiff Bay businessmen approached Sir Norman Foster, who had won second prize in the competition, to take over. Foster, unlike Hadid, is a known quantity, a great architect whose team would have had little difficulty in satisfying Hadid's detractors. Wisely, Foster turned them down. The Opera House was a glittering prize and it must have taken a great deal of soul-searching to have turned it down in an architect-eat-architect world.

The net result was no Hadid.

no Foster and no opera house. Instead, a local team was commissioned to design some sort of vague general arts and cultural centre which will now be the centre-piece of a much-compromised Cardiff Bay. This sorry episode has served to make the world's best architects and engineers, together with investors and critics, wary of Cardiff.

When city representatives began to realise what they might have lost (although they have never admitted this), some blamed the Millennium Commission for losing the opera house, others the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation. No one was to blame and no one had shafted Zaha Hadid.

Hadid herself responded magnificently. The opera house would have been her Lloyds or Pompidou, her Sydney Opera House; it would have placed her amongst the world's top architects. Throughout this dismal episode, she behaved with

immense good grace, which has earned her widespread respect.

She has had to swallow much more than her pride; a competition entry of this scale and ambition is an immensely expensive thing to enter. The small fees paid by the organisers of such competitions can never match the time, effort, money and emotion invested in them by architects and their teams of experts, including engineers, building technicians, model makers or, today, business consultants.

Despite rumours, Hadid is not rich; her team of young architects are not well paid and tend to finance themselves somehow. For them - many of them from overseas - working with Hadid is a privilege. She is a demanding taskmistress, but her work is very beautiful and, soon enough, will come into its own even in Britain: no one this talented can be left on the professional shelf for very long.

Meanwhile, Hadid has built a delightful fire station on the industrial estate of Vitra, the German furniture manufacturer, and is being considered for other prestigious projects abroad.

Zaha Hadid is one of architecture's true originals; she is also one of its greats. In 1997, she will come into her own and will put the sorry episode of Cardiff Bay behind her.

Monday: Alan Yentob

Sales guide

STARTING TODAY FASHION

Austin Reed
At branches nationwide. Men can get their single-breasted two- and three-button suits in stylish winter colours and wools reduced from £299 to £199, harn coats are down from £169 to £99 and there is a 25 per cent discount on cotton shirts. For women, fashion shirts are available at less than 50 per cent of the usual price and twill trousers, usually £49, are £29.95.
Betty Jackson
Continues into mid-January, at 311 Brompton Road, London SW3.
Cashmere polo sweaters down from £399 to £298; black leather three-quarter trench coats, £845 to £422.
Biba
Continues for 4-5 weeks, at 15 Shorts Gardens, London WC2 (0171-240 6694). Discounts of up to 50 per cent.
Burton
Continues for 4 weeks, at West 1 Shopping Centre, 379 Oxford Street, London W1, and at all stores nationwide (0321 267866). Almost everything will be marked down; discounts of up to 50 per cent.

Cashmere Studio
At 10 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-245 9111). For the best bargains check out ladies' ultra-fine one-ply classic mock-turtle and rollneck sweaters, down from £129 to £89, and Murray Allen cashmeres, reduced by 50 per cent.
Cerruti 1881
Womenswear sale until 31 Dec, at 106 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-495 3880).
Ciro pearls.
Runs until 31 Jan, at 61A Brompton Road, London SW3 (0171-589 5384). Discounts of 50 per cent on fine costume jewellery.
Designworks
Continues for 3 weeks, at 19 Avery Row, London W1. Discounts of 30-50 per cent on selected items.
Best bargains include wool flannel three-piece suits, reduced from £395 to £270; moleskin jackets, from £169 to £120; moleskin jeans, from £95 to £65; full-length leather combies, from £485 to £300; jersey tops in navy, charcoal and black, from £40 to £25.
DKNY
Bond Street, London W1.
Dorothy Perkins
At West 1 Store, 379 Oxford Street,

London W1, and branches nationwide.
Emporio Armani
At 191 Brompton Road, London SW3 (0171-823 8818) and at stores across London. Sales in Manchester and Glasgow start tomorrow.
Elam
Nationwide. Discounts of up to 50 per cent on winter stock.
Giorgio Armani
At 37 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 6232).
Hobbs
At branches nationwide.
Ken Lane
Until 31 Jan, at 30 Burlington Arcade, London SW3 (0171-499 136) and 58 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (0171-584 1985). Reductions of 50 per cent on jewellery.
Monsoon
At 23 The Market, London WC2, and stores nationwide. Discounts of up to 50 per cent. Look out for panne velvet column dresses, reduced from £85 to £55; silk shantung frock coats, down from £125 to £75; matching trousers reduced from £60 to £39.95. Silk hall gowns £99, down from £160. Aran cardigans reduced from £60 to £39.95. Floral prints and checks are half price. There are also reductions on childrenswear at some branches.

Next
Nationwide. Menswear, womenswear, and interiors all discounted by up to 50 per cent.
Oasis
Runs until the end of January, at 292 Regent Street, London W1 and branches nationwide. Discounts of up to 50 per cent; bargains include tan suede safari jackets, down from £109.99 to £69.99 and a red crepe trouser suit, down from £44.99 to £24.99.
Red or Dead
At all London stores. Reductions of 40 per cent on most stock: suede high boots reduced from £125 to £75; pinafore frocks, down from £79 to £45.
The Scotch House
For 2-3 weeks, at 2 Brompton Road, London SW1 and stores across London. Discounts of 30-40 per cent.
Ladies' cashmere round-necked cardigans, down from £195 to £139 (0171-581 2151 for mail order and inquiries).
Simpsons
Until 25 Jan at Piccadilly, London. Extra 10 per cent off today, 9am-10am, all day 29 Dec and 1 Jan (offer excludes concessions). Reductions of up to 50 per cent on YSL, Loroche, Costelloe, MaxMara, Fink, Geiger,

Simpson. Excellent sale bargains are full-length coats, reduced from £429 to £299, tweed and plain wool jackets, reduced from £259 to £179, wool trousers and skirts reduced from £110 to £75; Merino knitwear, originally priced at £95, is now £65. The best menswear reductions are on cashmere coats, reduced from £699 to £499, Daks Blazers, down from £195 to £155, Daks sports jackets, from £199 to £99 and Daks two-piece suits, from £299 to £149.
DEPARTMENT STORES
Debenhams
Great bargains to be found throughout the store, with up to 50 per cent off selected Nuage rainwear and selected premium-range J Taylor clothing, handbags and hats. Men will find savings of £10 on all Levi's jeans and 50 per cent reductions on IQ casual tops and shirts. There are similar reductions in the childrenswear and homes departments (0171-408 4444).
Fenwick
Runs for 3 weeks, at 63 New Bond Street, London W1, and at stores in Brent Cross, at Ricemans of Canterbury, Fenwick of Newcastle, Tunbridge Wells, Windsor, York and Leicester. Some lines will be

discounted by up to 30 per cent including designer wear such as Nicole Farhi and Mani. Harvey Nichols
At Knightsbridge, London SW1 and in Leeds. Discounts of up to 50 per cent will be found throughout the store with an extra 10 per cent reduction for all account-holding customers for the first four days of the sale. The height of designer style in womenswear includes Dolce & Gabbana, Calvin Klein and Givenchy. Men will also have the opportunity to snap up labels like selected CK Jeans, Versus by Gianni Versace and Giorgio Armani Le Collezioni at half the usual price. For interiors, Ralph Lauren Home items will be among the bargains.
Liberty
At Regent Street, London W1. Generous discounts are available on designer womenswear collections such as Gucci, Gaultier, Issey Miyake, Nicole Farhi, Ally Capellino, with many Vivienne Westwood lines reduced to half the normal price. Kenzo and Armani ties and Polo Ralph Lauren casuals are among the best of the bargains on offer in menswear. Armani, Fellini and Angie Gooderham jewellery will all be at half-price and there will be excellent

reductions on handbags and leathers. Homewares and interiors discounts will include half-price towels as well as linens, lighting, china and glass.
Selfridges
Runs for about a month, at Oxford Street, London W1. Womenswear reductions of between 30 to 50 per cent include Calvin Klein, Future Ozbek, Workers for Freedom, Jasper Conran. Gaultier and selected lines of Polo Ralph Lauren. Equally exclusive lines in menswear such as some Paul Smith, Calvin Klein and selected YSL are reduced by up to 30 per cent. Household items such as china and crystal will be reduced by up to 40 per cent, linens and bathroom items by up to 50 per cent; there will be up to 50 per cent reductions on silverware and excellent discounts will be available on a range of floor coverings, Oriental carpets, books, and up to 50 per cent discounts on childrenswear.
SHOES
Jones Bootmakers
At branches across London. Ladies' classic loafers are reduced from £75 to £55, the zip-up boot with beel from £100 to £50, men's classic lace-up shoes from £95 to £40. All discounts are on the current stock.

0171 240 1350

Sleeping with the minotaur

Adam Mars-Jones on two new movies about individuals trapped in nightmare worlds not of their own making: 'Surviving Picasso', a portrait of the artist as an old monster, and 'Daylight', a subterranean rescue mission for Sly Stallone

All the credits for *Surviving Picasso* are, unusually, at the end of the film, presumably in an attempt to conceal the screenplay's source in Arianna Stassinopoulos's book, *Picasso: Creator and Destroyer* – not exactly a high point in cultural criticism. But in fact Ruth Prawer Jhabvala's script is well turned, apart from the oddity of having flashbacks within the story of Françoise Gilot (Natascha McElhone) to incidents in Picasso's life before she met him – you can't flash back to a place you've never been. The film as a whole, though, is a welcome recovery after *Jefferson in Paris*, and is the least Merchant Ivoryish film to be made by that team for many years. For once, they are recreating not order but turmoil, and a man who demanded stability from the women who loved him, but then slipped away from those settled arrangements himself.

There are plenty of images in the film of Picasso as a jailer or predator. On Françoise's first visit to the artist's studio he tells her that she's now in the labyrinth of the minotaur – isn't she afraid she'll never get out? When he suggests that she move in, it is not so much as his lover as his "secret captive". Françoise was almost half a century younger than Picasso, and seems to have walked into her life with him with her eyes wide shut. Her complaint essentially is that he was meant to be as wholly transformed by her as she was by him. The film shows that he almost was – that he was able to suspend some of his exploitative patterns. The other strange male figure in the film, Françoise's father (Bob Peck), is straightforwardly abusive; compared to him, Picasso has to be seen as liberating for all his manipulativeness.

Picasso in the film is not someone who trusts his emotions, as Françoise wants, but who defies his impulses. There's a funny, fleeting moment when Picasso, throwing books at his delinquent son Claude, accidentally hits Françoise with one. Any other person would at least consider apologising, but Picasso didn't get to be Picasso by mistrusting his moods. If he throws a book at Françoise, she must be culpable. Simpler to extend the tirade

to include her than to step back from his temperament.

The film's Picasso is the sort of egoist who turns his moods into temporary countries that other people must inhabit. When he feels uncreative, he must measure his power over art dealers and hangers-on by making them wait hours for an audience. When he feels unlovable, he must measure his power over his lover by making her beg for his attention.

Anthony Hopkins's performance, like his Nixon, contains elements of impersonation that aren't allowed to predominate. He makes no attempt at a vocal imitation but offers a flickering physical likeness. The actor's face and body were bland and trim when compared with Nixon's hideous distinctiveness, and here he must find a wiriness and fire that are also somewhat foreign. There's a touching moment in Picasso's first intimate conversation with Françoise when he becomes momentarily unsure of himself, suddenly fearful that this young goddess must be mocking his scanty hair and his unattractiveness. The character's vulnerability is bristling with armour, but Hopkins keeps opening up chains.

The film ends with a montage of the work that Picasso was making during this period, perhaps with a view to rehabilitating the artist after indulging the man so little. But long before then a more complicated picture has emerged, of a monster without power except what his victims gave him, and a woman who found the thread out of that labyrinth.

In *Daylight*, Sylvester Stallone does his standard superhero stuff in a slightly unusual setting – a tunnel between Manhattan and New Jersey, turned into a place of hellish danger by a vast explosion and a toxic fire, by the river above threatening to burst in, and finally by salvage operations conducted from topside by authorities who can't believe (not realising that this is a disaster movie) that there could be any survivors. Stallone, an ex big-shot paramedic with a secret sorrow, breaks in from above to provide rescue and comfort, though to do so he must climb down through a series of huge fans that can only

be switched off for seconds at a time. All this, not to mention punching holes in mud walls to plant explosives, he does with his career-long expression of fuddled nobility.

Director Rob Cohen experienced disaster at first hand, if on a smaller scale, when in 1980 he survived a hotel fire in Boston that claimed five lives. Having seen *Towering Inferno*, he knew to stay low and stay put till the emergency services could reach him, and used wet towels to seal off the bottoms of doors. Presumably he didn't find himself part of a little group of survivors playing out miniature dramas of selfishness and self-sacrifice, but then that was only real life.

If Stallone is a blue-collar redeemer, leading his followers first to a sealed-off chapel built by "sandbags" (the original construction workers on the tunnel) and then actually behind the crucified Christ on his wall into a concealed flue, he soon gathers disciples. Notably there's Madeline (Amy Brenneman), an aspiring playwright who puts her rubber-soled shoes on her hands before wrestling with a high-voltage cable. After a single line of professional self-obsession ("Nobody goes to a theatre any more"), she becomes Stallone's devoted helper ("If we don't die, I'm wondering if I could give you a call?"). At one point she utters a line that threatens to push *Daylight* towards self-parody, when she replies to Stallone's umpteenth "Are you OK?" with "We gotta stop asking each other that".

Most fun in his brief time on screen is Viggo Mortensen as Roy Nord, the sports-writer-turned-actor, who models and demonstrates his own products as he struggles to escape the traumatised tunnel. He is the bad angel to Stallone's good, regarding the disaster as a promotional opportunity to be exploited, and the film can't let him get very far since he threatens its assumption that a disaster is a sort of Outward Bound Course in extremis, with people learning to suppress the base aspect of their rage to survive. Roy Nord makes sure his escape attempt is videotaped, and uses his mobile phone while climbing a vast shaft clogged with unstable debris. Don't you find it annoying when people do that?

Both films are on general release from today



Lost the thread? Picasso (Anthony Hopkins) relaxes with Claude (Joe Gekes) and Françoise (Natascha McElhone)

'I will not stare at beautiful women and wish I was a lesbian'

I will not automatically assume that a man is gay simply because he is handsome and amusing, words out is extraordinarily well-dressed and knows all the words to "Ooh Ahh, Just a Little Bit". Well, he could merely be pretending to be gay, couldn't he?

I will wind down my campaign to have the Lycra declared an endangered species.

In deference to his heartfelt plea for privacy and painful sensitivity on the subject, I will no longer describe my dear, close friend David as "tragically single". Not to his face.

Mind you... Anyone who wants to date the nicest, sweetest and most thoroughly house-broken Jewish sex god in captivity – trust me, your mother will love him – should write to me here at

The Independent, as I could do with a laugh.

I will not scare the other men at the gym by chanting "I must! I must! I must increase my bust".

I will quit blaming my mother for making my brothers heterosexual.

I will not blow an entire day shopping for one simple black T-shirt.

I will not spend half my annual income on products containing liposomes. (Note: make 1997 the year you find out what a liposome is.)

I will stop treating straight men like remedial children.

Scratch that.

I promise not to snigger all the

way through *Platoon* – again.

I will not confuse songs heard at four in the morning at *The Fridge* with real life. This applies particularly to Eria Fuchin's "Savin' Myself", the Giant Killers' "Time of Our Lives", Sheryl Lee Ralph's "In the Evening", Suzanne Rye's "Because You Loved Me", all Abba covers, and every lyric containing the words "heaven", "high", "happiness" or any of the following sentiments: "Hold me! Don't ever let go", "Take your hands off my man" and "Dub I Dub Dub I Dub".

I will likewise remind myself that my hair is not "Harlow gold" and my lips are not "a sweet surprise", except in times of national emergency.

On the other hand, I will acknowledge that Moby's "That's



John Lyttle's New Year resolutions

When I Reach For My Revolver" contains a message for us all.

When I am next tempted to buy a white vest, checked shirt and leather chaps, I will remember, as one correspondent so memorably put it, that "in the Val-

ley of the Dolls, it's Barbie, not Ken, who has all the fun".

I will stop worrying whether the boy who played the banjo in 'Deliverance' went on to have a successful show business career.

I will stop worrying whether Laboratoire Garnier is actually a breeze-block shed on a French housing estate.

I will stop worrying, period.

I will start taking Prozac, period.

I solemnly promise not to cruise my sisters' husbands. No matter how much they like it.

I will wait until the wind is blowing away from me before scattering another friend's ashes.

I will stop making anonymous

calls to the fashion police and asking to speak to the Swat squad. If George Michael really thinks that haircut, clone moustache and goatee suit him, that's his prerogative. The fool.

I will not stare at beautiful women and wish I was a lesbian.

I will fund an expedition to find the "Gay Community". After that, the unicorn, the dodo and Nessie.

I will not end my lurid description of the death of Edward II with "Don't try this at home".

I will not fantasise about being shipwrecked on a desert island with Brad Pitt and Daniel Day-Lewis. I will not fantasise that they quarrel over me. I will not fantasise that my solution is a rota system and lots of massage.

I will not dance like a drunk attempting to kill a cockroach.

I will not off and blind at homophobes and then plead Tourette's syndrome.

I will put away childish things and focus on what is important in life. For instance, the next Armani collection, the new season of *Melrose Place*, and finding just the right shade of moss-green linen napkins to match the Royal Doulton dinner set Andrew got me for Christmas.

I will not mime to Barbara Streisand's "Guilty" album. (Note: this resolution has been broken every year since 1981. Do my harder.)

I will remember to tell Andrew that I love him at least once a day.

Ditto Derek.

I will accept Andrew's proposal of marriage.

Nah, I'll play hard to get.

Will.

Won't.

Will.

Won't.

We'll see.

Disclaimer: Mr Lyttle's legal representatives would like it known that the above resolutions are subject to alteration, cancellation, whim, amnesia and bribery without prior notification or so much as a by-your-leave. For further information, please see the relevant *Citizen's Charter*. This does not affect your statutory rights – much.

Pied à Terre
At 31 Old Bond Street, London W1 and all branches in London, Manchester, Glasgow, Brighton, Brent Cross and Lakeside Shopping Centre (enquiries, call 0171-499 9204). Discounts of up to 75 per cent are available on selected shoes, clothing and bags.

HOMES & INTERIORS
Heal's
Runs until 19 Jan, at 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-636 1666) and stores in London and Guildford. Discounts include 20 per cent off dining tables, chairs, occasional tables and upholstery from the store's normal stock, plus 30 per cent off selected cookware, canteens of cutlery and clear-glass vases, 50 per cent off discounted linens and all bakeware at the Tottenham Court Road store. There are also good reductions on metal beds, and discounted children's furniture ranges Connections and Carnival. The star bargains of the sale include Caprice metal beds, reduced from £720 to £575, bergère chairs, frame-only, down from £810 to £595, and bergère two-seater chairs, frame-only, down from £1,090 to £750.
The Pier
Stores around the country, including King's Road, London SW3.
Royal Worcester Spode
126 Regent St, London, W1.

ALREADY ON FASHION
British Home Stores
Nationwide.
Ghost
At 326 Kensal Road, London W10.
Kate Jones
At 26 St Christopher's Place, London W1.
Cool, cut-price hipster miniskirts are down to £71 from £95 and pretty baby-doll dresses are reduced from £125 to £93.
Claudia Selbre
At 136 Fulham Road, London SW10 (0171-835 1327). Prices are reduced by 25 per cent on labels such as Strenesse and MaxMara. Best bargains are: Schuber suits, reduced from £750 to £500.
Blazer (Moss Bros Group) At stores nationwide. Blazer pure-wool suits make excellent bargains at £125, down from £250, and pure cotton shirts are equally easy to snap up at £19.50, down from the original price of £40.
Racing Green
Until 11 Jan, at 33 King Street, Manchester (0161-635 3022) and branches in Glasgow and Kingston-upon-Thames. Discounts of 25-50 per cent will be made at the stores and on mail-order.
Ronik Zikha
At branches across London. There is a 50 per cent discount on selected items. The star bargain is the daisy-print silk shirt, reduced from £159 to £80.

HOMES AND INTERIORS
Maples
At stores nationwide. Excellent furniture bargains include the Maples two-seater sofa, reduced from £1,399 to £949 and the Lamont table and four chairs, down from £2,995 to £1,499.
Ikea
At 2 Drury Way, North Circular Road, London NW10 (0181-208 5600) and at branches in Croydon, Birmingham, Gateshead, Leeds and Warrington.

SHOES
Church's
At 201 Regent Street, London W1 and branches across London. World-renowned quality all-leather shoes. Discounts include the Dorchester shoe, down from £195 to £120, the Litz, down from £185 to £95 and the ladies quilted loafer in sunflower yellow, down from £110 to £60.
Ravel
Discounts will be up to 50 per cent, although most reductions will be around 33 per cent. Bargains include suede loafers, down from £29.99 to £20, elegant beaded satin high-heeled court shoe in grey or burgundy, reduced from £39.99 to £29, men's slip-on loafer with leather sole, down from £49.99 to £40 and ankle boots with buckle down from £39.99 to £30 (0171-631 0224).

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Sun 28 Dec 7.30pm
Sun 29 Dec 7.30pm
Sun 30 Dec 7.30pm
Sun 31 Dec 7.30pm
ALFREDO PERI, piano
Bach: Complete French Suites V. Bach: Sonatas in E Op 10 No 1, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 2, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 3, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 4, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 5, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 6, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 7, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 8, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 9, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 10, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 11, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 12, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 13, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 14, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 15, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 16, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 17, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 18, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 19, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 20, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 21, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 22, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 23, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 24, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 25, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 26, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 27, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 28, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 29, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 30, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 31, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 32, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 33, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 34, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 35, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 36, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 37, Sonatas in E Op 10 No 38, Sonatas in E Op 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the leader page

No thanks for season's plenty, just blame for indigestion

Sniff the air. Lick a finger and hold it to the wind. Something's coming, something good – to quote the *West Side Story* song – maybe tonight. Or in the New Year, anyway. The nation has started shopping again, and started moving house with enthusiasm. So, according to the Deputy Prime Minister, the good times must surely be on their way.

The sales help. After the Christmas excesses our material consumption has become a little more bargain conscious, but we haven't stopped shopping. It is as if, having gorged ourselves on Christmas pudding, we just keep eating. Only we did ourselves that this time we're swallowing healthy green leaves instead.

The shopping frenzy seems to be more than a seasonal fluctuation. According to the unemployment figures, new jobs are being created fast. Although they aren't jobs for life these days, they aren't just jobs for Christmas either. And, to Mr Heseltine's wayward delight yesterday, house prices are rising again, too.

Well may the Deputy PM warble. Received wisdom tells us that this should be great news for the Government. Jobs for Christmas and prosperity for the New Year should lead gaily on to votes in the spring. When the economy is booming, say the pundits, governments get re-elected. When it crashes, they are turfed out. Through

the Eighties and early Nineties economic confidence and support for the Conservative incumbents moved hand in hand.

But somehow the old story does not chime true this time. No one seems to believe it. In the past year or so, consumer confidence has indeed been rising, but support for the Conservatives has not. Of course the Conservatives could theoretically turn around a massive gap in the opinion polls and win a general election in May. Stranger things have happened. But even the most extreme Conservative optimists and Labour pessimists are tentative in their predictions that rising economic prosperity in the next few months can help the Conservatives win.

Voters are still grouchy. Had we been roaring into a boom for the past year or so, engines blazing, purses open, the public might have built up the confidence to show benevolence towards the Government. But the boom is neither big enough nor blatant enough to erase the memories of recent hard times. Stepping sedately out of the recession, skirts merely ruffling in the wind, may have been a sensible economic strategy for our inflation-prone nation, but it has not had much positive impact on British voters.

More important, British voters are getting wise to the boom thing. Soaring economic growth today means high inflation tomorrow, and painful recession

the day after that. The trouble with 18 consecutive years in power is that you are still around to take the blame for the consequences of economic mistakes. So this time, the Conservatives who presided over the Lawson boom, the overheating of the economy and the explosion of the housing market were still in power through the recession and the repossessions. There is no one else to blame.

The Chancellor, Ken Clarke, is clearly well aware of this. Not for nothing has he avoided fuelling a huge consumer boom with further interest rate cuts and tax cuts at the end of this

year. The Conservatives have a lot to do to rebuild their economic credibility in voters' eyes. Heralding a new boom will undermine all Ken Clarke's claims to be a safe pair of hands. And while it might – just might – kid voters all over again, it may also make them even more cynical and dismissive about Government claims. Someone should have explained this to Mr Heseltine before he bounced on to the radio yesterday lauding the benefits of an accelerating economy.

Confidence in the Conservatives' economic competence is not the only thing at stake, however. Voters feel wary

altogether about Tory economic integrity. The Eighties felt really good. We thought we could have them for ever. We were told it was a "Tory" miracle. The deletion of those expectations had a huge effect. Graduates who went to university in the Eighties believed there were excellent jobs on monstrous salaries waiting out there with their names on. When they arrived in the labour market to find high graduate unemployment, they felt cheated. Likewise, the home owners who risked all to join the property-owning world lost faith when they went into negative equity. Disappointed people do not swallow promises so easily all over again.

But the biggest reason why the Government may find it hard to reap the political rewards of a growing economy next year is taxation. Having promised so much in terms of tax cuts to come before the 1992 election, the Conservatives were forced to raise taxes substantially instead. Remember what happened to George Bush? On the evidence of decades of presidential elections, George Bush should have won in 1992; the economy was growing, and he was in charge. But he was unable to reap the political benefits of growth himself because he had broken his promise to the voters. With "read my lips, no new taxes" ringing in their ears, voters could not bring themselves to vote for Bush again.

Economies do make a difference in

elections. Usually the difference. And rising prosperity should bring some good news for the Government. But for all Mr Heseltine's cheery talk, he should remember that voters don't only look at a growing economy and vote for those in power: they look for someone they trust to sustain it.

Hero Today, gone tomorrow?

Poor old *Today* programme. Off they go, John, Jim and Sue, in all innocence seeking their listeners' favourite person of the year. And what happens? First, cynical Labour know-nothings try to rig it. And then (which, we ask, is worse?) John Major wins. Cry foul! Are we really to believe that the middle-aged middle classes prefer Mr Major to a whole bevy of moral heroines? Women who saved children, fought for gun laws and democracy, survived disaster? No chance.

So here's a suggestion for the new editor of *Today*. Scrap the poll next year. Choose your own favourite, or get a group of estimable and non-partisan female judges to do it for you. After all, we're going to have enough of Messrs Blair and Major in 1997 to last us through a thousand Boxing Day breakfasts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Action now to keep the elderly warm

Sir: Action, not the needless wringing of hands, is called for if we are to remedy the appalling consequences of fuel-poverty in the UK ("Dickensian season for the elderly", 24 December).

The problem has reached massive proportions, because of the Treasury's consistently perverse calculus that short-term budget cuts are more important than investing to save lives, energy and money. At least six million people are classified as fuel-poor, and the level of "Extra Winter Deaths" which result because so many vulnerable people live in constantly cold, damp, energy-wasteful houses, ranges from 30,000 to 60,000 fatalities annually.

In January, a cross-party group of MPs, led by Alan Simpson (Nottingham South), will reintroduce the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation (15 Year Programme) Bill, with the support of the Association for the Conservation of Energy, Friends of the Earth and Neighbour Energy Action.

Once law, the Bill would mandate successive governments to insulate effectively 500,000 homes a year for 15 years. The payback will be huge. Conservatively, up to 50,000 new jobs will be created through manufacturing, installing, servicing and repairing a range of energy-conservation goods and materials. The Treasury and taxpayers will gain some £9,000 per year for every person escaping the cold queue. Polluting emissions will tumble and domestic fuel bills will fall.

Most importantly, tens of thousands of lives will be saved every winter, and as we implement this "prevention is better than cure" strategy the NHS will save hundreds of millions of pounds every year.

This is no millennium fantasy, but the best Christmas present society can give to itself. Treasury short-termism will only be overcome if voters and taxpayers demand the Bill become law. CHARLES SECRET

Director, Friends of the Earth London N1

Sir: Your article "Dickensian season for the elderly" (24 December) makes grim reading; nevertheless its message about the consequences of a large section of UK houses being unheatable is an understatement. Not only the old suffer. Everyone, especially children, is susceptible to cold-induced winter illness, and since cold houses result in condensation with consequent mould growth, also to damp-induced illness such as asthma.

The investment required to raise the UK housing stock to the thermal standards equivalent to those of our north European neighbours is massive. However, spread over, say, 10 years it is still less than the aggregated costs of death, illness (including consequent educational and production losses), damage to houses and their contents, the (ludicrously inadequate) cold weather payments, and the extra costs to social services and housing management.

The variations in UK winter climate are striking, if temperature, wind and sunshine (or lack of it) are all taken into account. A house in the Shetlands consumes 69 per cent more energy than an identical house heated to identical



A warm room: but six million people in this country are classified as 'fuel-poor' (see letters, left) Photograph: David Rose

temperatures in London. Bad as conditions are everywhere in the UK, the hardship and loss is unevenly distributed.

Hence the investment needed to make life safe, healthy and tolerable for the eight million households who currently cannot meet such heating criteria, will need to be regionally targeted. THOMAS A MARKUS

Emeritus Professor of Building Science

University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

(The writer was co-author of *Wax Committee Report 30 "Domestic Energy and Affordable Warmth"*, 1994)

Oasis dwarfed by Beatlemania

Sir: According to Andrew Mueller, "the deification of the Beatles has been largely retrospective" ("A Liam isn't just for Christmas", 20 December) and "no other band has been more universally adored by their own country during their existence than Oasis".

It only takes a small effort of memory to conjure up the Beatlemania of 30 years ago, which dwarfs any adulation that might be felt for Oasis today: constant press reports on the doings of the Fab Four, Wilfrid Mellers pontificating on their music in *The Times*, OBEs being handed out by Harold Wilson, the conquering of America, Beatle jackets, mop-top wigs, every single and every album being subject to minute scrutiny – I cannot see any of it happening to Oasis at the moment. MICHAEL AINSOUGH

Henfield, West Sussex

Why blood donor rules vary

Sir: Mr Jarrett (letter, 24 December) raises an important point concerning guidelines over who can and cannot donate blood.

In the past these rules have tended to relate to medical history, but increasingly the National Blood Service (NBS) has had to take into account changes in lifestyle.

Long-haul travel overseas can mean that some of our regular donors visit areas where malaria is endemic; according to the World Health Organisation, one such country is the Dominican Republic. In the absence of any diagnostic test, the current rule is that anyone visiting such an area must wait for one year and have no signs of malaria before being able to donate again.

At the North London Centre, which includes the West End Donor Clinic referred to by Mr Jarrett, the NBS is investigating a potential diagnostic test for malaria. This means that many donors who previously would have had to wait for a year are now able to donate at sessions managed through North London. Once all the information from this pilot is complete, the NBS will consider the wider use of the diagnostic test at other blood centres.

This initiative is just one example of how the NBS is adapting continually to meet the changing pattern of blood donation in England. As hospitals continue to use increasing amounts of blood every year, the service does meet

the demand, but there will always be a need for more – particularly at holiday times such as Christmas. To become a donor, people should contact their local blood centre or ring 0345-711711.

Dr MARY BRENNAN
Director of Donor Services & Public Relations,
London and South East Zone of the
National Blood Service
London NW9

Elastic Marilyn

Sir: Regarding correspondence on Marilyn Monroe's legendary proportions (letters, 20 and 24 December), there is something I really must get off my chest.

Both Dr Ashton and Stephen Dorrell are missing the point – judging from photographs taken throughout MM's career, she fluctuated between being very slim and quite ample (as in *Some Like It Hot*). Her charm lay not in whether she was a size 10 or a size 16, but in her beautiful face, her extraordinary sensuousness, and the fact that, big or small, she was always curvaceous, with a very desirable waist-to-hip ratio.

Why do these men find it a matter of importance to squabble about a few inches here and there, when what we should all be doing is celebrating some women's ability to leave men breathless with the sheer force of their confidence in their own beauty and sex appeal, size and age notwithstanding? PENNY BLOOM

Peterborough, Cambridgeshire

Drink to the turban trick

Sir: The science article on reducing the risk of cholera infection by filtering water using a sari ("Cholera cure? You're wearing it", 16 December) was not the first time I'd heard of the trick.

In 1983 I took a camel trip between Rajasthan and Bikaner in Rajasthan and was led by a charismatic Pakistani. He had a wicked sense of humour and brought me to a waterhole where we were to eat. The water was full of life and caused me considerable concern.

My friend laughed – then proceeded to filter it through his turban. I was grateful to lose the insects, but not at all comfortable at the thought of what was being added to the water by the turban.

Was it an example of good local practice passed down through generations proving to be good science as well?

JOHN McKEILLAR
Macclesfield, Cheshire

Horror in Zaire

Sir: I am very happy to know that President Mobutu has returned to Zaire "to bring a solution to the problems of the east of the country".

These are the problems for which the east of the country expects him to bring a solution: the wretched girls of Idubu school, kidnapped by the retreating FAZ (Zaire Armed Forces), begging the

population of Marabo to free them from their captors after days and nights of continued rape; the hungry population of Bunia with its market and shops looted and burned by the FAZ, with no way to find their daily food; the ransacked hospitals of Kwanguba, Katwa, Beni, Oicha and Rethy, pillaged by the FAZ; the nuns of Maboya, raped and murdered by the FAZ; the four truck-loads of fleeing Goma residents, women and children, massacred in cold blood by the Interahamwe, now fighting on the side of the FAZ; the girls and nuns of Institut Chem Chem in Bunia, raped by the FAZ.

President Mobutu could follow the example of rebels now in control of Goma; they have put deserting FAZ soldiers into a one-year retraining course, to drum it into their heads that the role of the military is to defend civilians.

GWENDOLYN MCKENZIE
Nairobi

Bitter Dawkins

Sir: In spite of an initial impression to the contrary, Richard Dawkins's offensively bitter comments ("Surely, you must be joking", 24 December) show just how deeply he cares about the truths of Christian belief; you don't get offensive or bitter about something you couldn't give a tuppence for.

Since he does obviously care so much, may I suggest that he extends the scope of his religious knowledge to include theologies of the Incarnation and the Atonement other than the fundamentalist and reductionist interpretations that he attacks? They do exist. Rev DAVID CLEMENS
Tilbury, Essex

Sixties icons are not ours

Sir: Sorry to disappoint Polly Toynbee ("It's time to swing back to the Sixties", 23 December), but young people of my generation, born in the Seventies, have absolutely no interest in what Jagger et al have to say.

After making a few vague "anti-Establishment" gestures in their youth, most of the Baby Boomers have become part of that very Establishment.

The late-teens and twentysomethings of 1996/97 have their own ideas, their own beliefs, and their own heroes and heroines, and look forward optimistically to the year 2000, not 1964. The "legacy" of the Sixties, Seventies and Eighties has indeed created a society very different from that of 30 years ago, and anyone who wants to get on with life doesn't waste time wondering whether this is for better or worse.

Young people do admire those like Nelson Mandela, who fought (and fought) for values still vital today. Most of us have a strong sense of morality and of doing right by others, and are sick of being told what terrible times we're living through.

The 21st century could be a great one. My message to the Polly Toynbees out there is this: help us build it, or leave us alone.

JON MILLS
Minehead, Somerset

Sir: We fiftysomethings are "war babies", not "baby-boomers" – two quite distinct groups. Those born in the post-war baby boom would now be fortysomethings, like Ms Toynbee.

Many of my generation, I suspect, feel quite peeved at the way the baby-boomers came along and ruthlessly deconstructed the secure, socially cohesive, idealistic post-war world (1945-60) in which we grew up.

What they have given the rest of us is epitomised not just by the Sixties, but by the Thatcherite Eighties, too; both are two sides of the same coin. That coin, of course, is selfish libertarianism, the ethos of "blow everybody else. I'm going to have what I want".

The Sixties and Seventies applied this to sex and drugs, whilst the Eighties and Nineties expressed it in terms of money – but it is the same beast that Ms Toynbee's generation liberated from Pandora's box 30 years ago.

DAVID SMITH
Bletchley, Buckinghamshire

National treat

Sir: Someone had to produce a thin scream of agony at the fact that the National Theatre is managing to delight those theatregoers who leap spontaneously to their feet at the end of each performance of *Gyps and Dolls*, entranced by a production which only someone wedded to the idea of drama as misery could fail to enjoy.

The National is doing what it should be doing – producing a mixture of classic and modern productions and sometimes taking chances with work which may come a cropper. Julian Mitchell ("Losing the plot at the National Theatre", 21 December) demands a "marvellous new play".

My own impression is that the National Theatre demands this, too; finding it is, however, not as easy as Mr Mitchell supposes. DEREK PARKER
London W14

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk.

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

JPV 10150

Who would be a politician's wife in 1997?

So Cherie Booth is to have her own adviser for the election campaign, is she? Great. She needs one. Someone has to deal with columns like this one, features about Tony Blair's family life, featurettes about Cherie's taste in clothes, news stories about her latest court case, and the countless other snippets and snipes about the Labour leader's other half. Everybody will want a bite at Cherie in the next few months. And you can guarantee that most of them will dig their teeth in hard.

Well let's hope they snap so hard they bite their own tongues off – because one of them has a clue what they are talking about. Chauvinists in the right-wing press rant that Ms Booth (and you can hear them hissing as they say "Mizzzzzz") is too pushy, and should stay quietly at home. On the other hand, the people who ought to identify with her predicament – women who have fought against gender stereotypes all their lives – lambaste her for compromising, for cuddling Tony in public, and even editing an issue of the popular women's magazine *Prima*.

Both sides, it seems, would rather she simply shut up and remained on the sidelines. The fact that she is to have an election campaign aide to herself will get them all salivating again.

But the truth is that the spouse of a political leader can't slip silently into the shadows these days – it isn't possible. Voters want to know how women politicians are. The quickest way of proving humanity – particularly for a man – is to produce a wife. A Mrs in the wings is shorthand for: I can look after people, I love people and support people and guess what, I am heterosexual, lovely and fanciable, too.

There are other ways to produce a suitable hinterland, but this is the fastest and in these intolerant times, the most acceptable. Keep that spouse under wraps, on the other hand, and people become suspicious, curious and fascinated. And opponents gleefully conclude that the wife or husband may be a weak point to attack.

So spouse has to have a public persona – even if it is only rolled out once in a while. Denis had one, Norma had one, so did Glenys. Now Cherie has one, too. And there is little point in slugging them off for the particular public roles they have each been landed with – because each has had little freedom to manoeuvre. Political partners are trapped, cornered by voters' prejudices, media hypocrisy and by their own commitment to the party, and to the politician they share their beds with. Wives, husbands, Labour, Conservative, many of the dilemmas are the same. But to be wife to the first Labour leader of the baby boom generation is probably the worst combination of all.

Oh for the days – and the balls – of Denis. Male and retired, Denis Thatcher could play the strong, silent type. OK, some people said he was a wimp because his wife was so forceful and powerful, but at least he never had to pretend to be a wimp in public. Denis was over required to slide onto the stage at an English seaside resort to snuggle with Margaret at the end of her speech. Not so the political wives.

But what choice have they got? Leave John Major on stage on his own and his is one



Yvette Cooper

Political partners are trapped by voters' prejudice, media hypocrisy and marital commitment

among a sea of grey hair, grey faces and grey suits. Margaret Thatcher, surrounded by lots of male cabinet members, was glamorous enough. But until the main parties have more women's faces in their cabinets, their male leaders need a wife on hand to break the monotony. After all, this is a selling game. People like looking at and buying pictures of women. Not for nothing are the front covers of men's magazines and women's magazines alike smeared with women's smiles. Being a political wife, rather than a husband, is doubly difficult. Not only is the press attention more acute, but the role required is – for the moment – more controversial. Husbands can be themselves, so long as they don't talk politics. But wives discover, as soon as they are thrust on the public stage, that everything about them threatens other people, and therefore threatens votes.

In the space of a generation, the choices available to women have expanded considerably. But we are all still terribly toady about the decisions other women have made. Confronted with a housewife, mothers who went back to work feel defensive and guilty. Seeing a successful career woman, those who stayed at home feel inadequate. Faced with a Norma Major, young women feel frustrated and irritated at the doors she failed to open for us. Watching a dynamic Cherie Booth QC, older women feel their own lives devalued.

That's just the women's vote. Men are worse. If they don't feel threatened directly by independent women, they are often confused and unable to warm to changing women's roles.

Of course a leader's wife could blaze a brilliant trail by publicly distancing herself from traditional women's roles. She could refuse to be seen smiling at her husband's side, avoid party conferences, and stick to pursuing her own career. She could stand up and shout to the world that she is not a politician's wife but a politician's accessory. But what would she or anyone else gain from it?

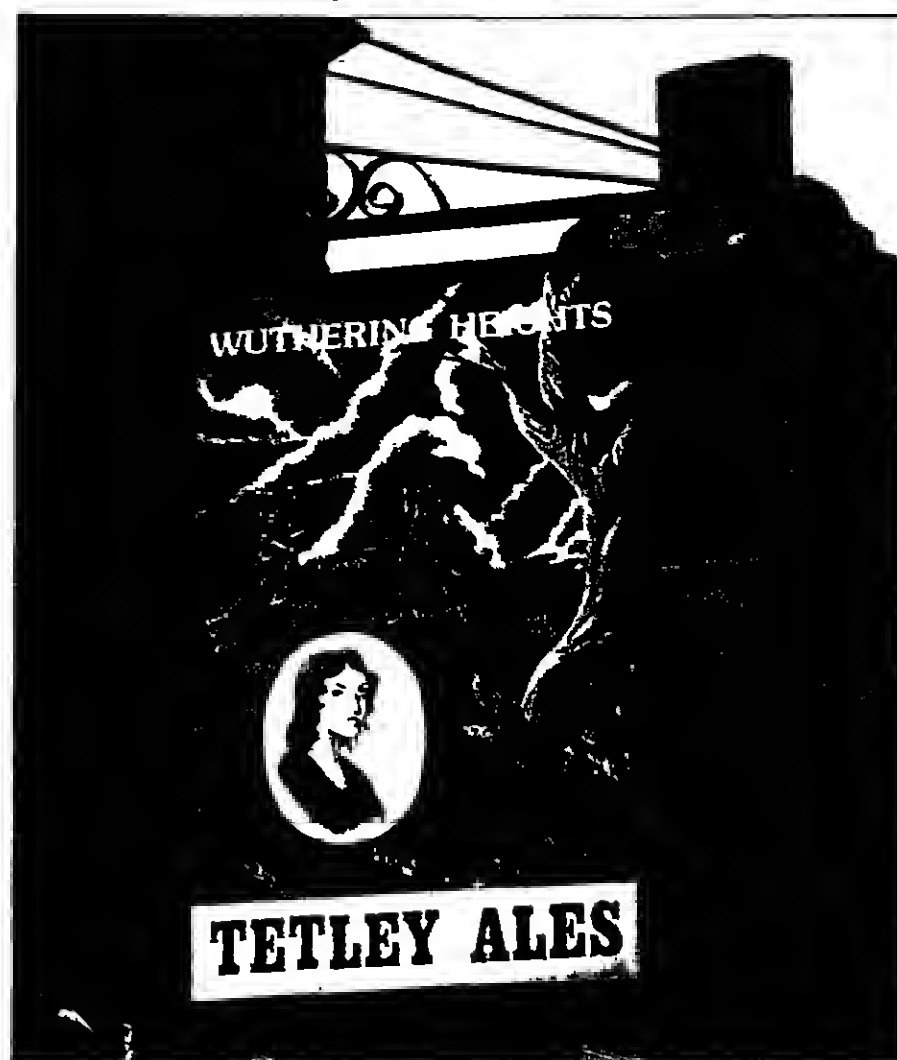
She would be crucified by the right-wing press, who would distort and caricature her views. (Just think what the media have done to Hillary Clinton.) Voters, especially other women who our crusading political wife over meant to attack, would interpret her behaviour as criticism of them. And her party could lose the election because of it.

In the circumstances, then, it is easy to see why the working wife of an opposition leader should go out of her way to emphasise the unthreatening side – the *Prima* side, the mother side, the "I love my husband" side. This is not giving in; it is acknowledging the sexist political world we live in, making gradual progress, and staying sane. Just to carry on working after taking up residence at No 10 would be an achievement.

Other people, other women, can do a lot more shouting. They can change attitudes towards women's roles by daring to be confrontational, and where necessary by offending people. But it is hard for political parties and their representatives to leap too far ahead of public opinion. Women politicians have a tough enough time advocating their cause and maintaining some control over the public role they play. Politicians' wives – especially opposition politicians' wives – don't stand a chance.

A national heritage that holds us back

by Andrew Marr



The more we as a nation trade on past glories, the more our future is being shaped by others, in Europe and globally

Just like people, there are countries which act, and there are countries that are acted upon. The saddest thing about the past few years, for a true Briton, is the extent to which we have become an acted-upon nation. Foreign secretaries may speak of us punching above our weight. We may comfort ourselves with the creativity and glamour of British design, music and art.

But the big things in public life thump in from outside. The European Union is the biggest and most obvious example of how the world our children will inherit is designed and batted far from London. Whether the single currency goes ahead or doesn't, the shape of the Union is not closely linked to how British prime ministers act; yet those questions are of great moment for British people.

That, though, is only the beginning. We argue about films, stories and cultural dilemmas that are all imported. The Scots used to complain about the way in which their country was re-imagined and exported back to Scotland from London and Hollywood, so that Scottish children grew up with an image of themselves and their culture which had been concocted elsewhere. Now that is true of Britain generally, and the English in particular: the rise of the English villain and the fake England of Hollywood, discussed on these pages by Peter Popham last week, has provoked a rerun of the debate about cultural takeover that ignited in Scotland in the Sixties and Seventies.

If there is a debate about censorship and art, it turns on an imported US photographic exhibition. If there are arguments about violence in film, they concern the local's reaction to what Cronenberg, or Tarantino, got up to a year ago and a world away. If we are discussing digital broadcasting and regulation, we are mostly discussing things that are mostly discussed elsewhere.

This condition of "being happened to" (the Germans probably have a word for it) is noticed acutely among the political classes. Cabinet ministers may tell us that Britain is "punching above her weight" or is Washington's "oldest and most important ally", but they don't dominate the meetings that matter. They travel with the titles and trappings of world power, and that strange glossiness of the elected; but they are, nevertheless, titled, trapped and gossy followers.

Granted, this is the condition of most politicians in a world whose movers are private corporate players and creatives: when Bill Gates drops in on Mr Major, there is no doubt as to who is the more important.

But it is also something that the rest of us feel. We feel it directly, as consumers and workers in a globalising economy: our use of American cul-

ture and Asian technology simply makes us less British. The British were a couple of generations ago. And we feel it indirectly, because we are vaguely used to seeing politicians as leaders, their relative ineffectiveness rebukes us too. It may seem strange, but "being happened to" makes thinking about our national history not less important, but more important – and dangerous. In the Nineties, history, not trade unionism, is the British disease. We both need it and suffer from it. We need it as raw material – it is part of what we bring to the global party, to be endlessly recycled for tourism and entertainment. And, of course, it is the decorative detritus of a global language.

But we suffer from the intrusion and nostalgia it brings. In some ways, we know too much history. We are so overloaded with memories and precedents, that movement in any direction becomes harder and harder. The Conservative Party may be in decline, but the

Conservative Party rules. It is led by Prince Charles, fascinated by re-creating old environments, determined to protect these scarred, crowded islands from further change, keen to reassert Holy Parliament. Subtly, insidiously, it saps our optimism about the future. It even has its own Whitehall department, Heritage.

Heritage Britain, ruled by the Conservative Party, can only be an acted-upon, happened-to nation. It is the sort of country where great new buildings cannot be erected because their shadows fall on lesser, older buildings. It is a country where the most modest, timorous reform of the House of Lords is regarded as reckless by – Heaven help us – the Spice Girls. It is a nation where wider political reforms, of a scale implemented decade after decade by the Victorians, are thought impossible to get through Westminster: today we list our political institutions with almost as much reverence as mid-century architecture. It is not, in short, an assertive

to embrace globalism passionately. But we should recognise that it offers us at least a little choice: a shrewd, politically-awake Britain might well try to get the best of both – European when it suits us, such as in discussing media standards and regulation, but global-American, too. Until the anti-European revolt, this was more or less what we were trying to do.

Certainly, there is a gaping hole at the centre of right-wing Euro-sceptic thinking about this. On the one hand, they wish us to retire from federal Union in order to free Britain, to allow the rebirth of a vigorous "young" country: free-trading modern Drakes and Hawkinses; modern Stephensons and Brunels, all that.

On the other hand, almost all of them are among the anti-reform Ultras, hard-line defenders of the political and constitutional status quo ante; socially conservative; nostalgic – and highly suspicious of global-American popular culture. The dynamic Britain of earlier centuries was a place of fast and unstable internal change. You cannot be lively in the world but torpid inside your own coastline.

There is, in short, no escape – not from history, and certainly not back into history. The right's agenda is vivid and, under certain lights, attractive. But it is daft. Most of the country is already under the spell of global culture and uninterested in political nationalism.

The question facing voters will be whether new Labour, under Tony Blair, is really new. There is little point in having general elections if they do not, from time to time, shake the country up. Will Labour?

Its caution about political reform, its shift of emphasis on Europe, its excessive respect for the institutions and its cultural conservatism are all reasons to be cautious. Labour doesn't look as if it will take on the Conservative Party head-on. At Shadow Cabinet some time ago, there was even a debate about Labour's "right to roam" bill-walking policy because it might offend big landowners.

Yet I remain at least half optimistic. It would be very odd if a leader who has cut his party off from much of its own cultural and political history, flinched from inflicting the same treatment on the country. That is what we desperately need. It's time for a government that shows our great national institutions and tradition a bit less respect.

Santa Claus denies illegal entry

The new Criminal Trespass Act has now caught out an Old Age traveller. Bill Hartston reports

Mr Santa Claus appeared before the court on various charges including illegal entry, handling stolen goods, flying an aircraft without an internationally recognised pilot's licence, flying while under the influence of drink, impersonating a minister of the church with intent to gain illegal access to residential premises, and parking a reindeer in a built-up area without bazzard-warning lights.

Mr George Sleightman QC, appearing for the defence, moved for the dismissal of all charges on the grounds of goodwill to all men. The judge dismissed his application. The principal charge of illegal entry centred on an interpretation of the 1996 amendment to the Criminal Trespass Act. The prosecution's case that Mr Claus had effected ingress to a number of residential properties by means of various chimneys was not contested, but while this might previously have been no more than a civil misdemeanour, illicit entry, under the terms of the amendment, whether or not there is intent to commit a felony, now constitutes a criminal act. The prosecution further maintained that the sack of toys found in Mr Claus's possession was stolen goods and Mr Claus's stated intention to distribute said toys as "Christmas presents" was therefore a felonious act per se. The accused maintained that the toys were not stolen goods, but had been made by his "little helpers in Lapland", but he was unable to explain the "Made in Taiwan" labels attached to most of them.

The prosecution further claimed that the accused was also known as St Nicholas, and in that guise was well known to be the patron saint of thieves. The judge warned counsel against hearsay evidence and ordered the remark to be struck from the record.

Maintaining that his client had a full answer to all charges, Mr Sleightman asked the jury to concentrate on two principal questions: Did Mr Claus have grounds for believing that he had been invited on to the premises, and even if he did not have such grounds, did he not have a perfectly legal right of way down



the chimney? On the first point, witnesses from neighbouring properties had admitted that they left mince pies and glasses of sherry at the foot of their chimneys on Christmas Eve, as an implied invitation for "Father Christmas" to visit. (On the troublesome issue of the defendant's true name, Mr Claus agreed that he was frequently known by the name "Father Christmas", but denied ever having taken steps to encourage this deception. The charge of impersonating a minister of the church was accordingly dropped.) Mr Sleightman insisted that his client, having found sherry and mince pies at Nos 42, 44 and 46 Pagan Avenue, had been behaving perfectly reasonably when he assumed there must be some at No 48 as well. Indeed, he had no means of ascertaining whether or not he had been invited, other than to effect ingress down the chimney in order to discover whether or not sherry and pies were awaiting him. Furthermore, Mr Claus had obtained admission to the house by this means on every Christmas Eve "for as far back as he could remember" and therefore had established a right of way under common law. The prosecution, however, doubted that a common-law right of way could be established by a journey made only once every year. Mr Sleightman maintained that the journey in question was made with absolute regularity, however infrequently, and therefore was caught within the common-law definition.

Finally, Mr Sleightman asked whether his client, an elderly gentleman, who had, for reasons associated with his professional duties, not had much sleep, who had imbibed – out of politeness, rather than indulgence – considerable quantities of sherry, and who, at the best of times, did not know his Lapland from his Taiwan, could reasonably have been expected to distinguish number 48 Pagan Avenue from numbers 46 and 50, from the sight of their roofs alone, in the dead of night. Particularly when the rear light on his lead reindeer had failed. The jury retired to consider its verdict.

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market report / shares (For close of trading on 24 December)

Data Bank

FTSE 100	4460.5
FTSE 250	2030.7
SEAO VOLUME	268.2m shares
16.01.7 bar gains	
GMS Index	94.76
	+0.34

Share spotlight



Footsie peaks again despite Christmas Eve lethargy

Taking Stock

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate, a throwback to the days of the empire, was the outstanding feature as the stock market dutifully went through the motions of share trading on Christmas Eve.

The shares jumped 56p to an 81.5p peak after the company revealed a deal with Shell. It has been given the right to explore and the option to develop the Leo field in the Gulf of Mexico. Shell retains an overriding royalty. The Shell deal follows two other Gulf of Mexico developments, announced on Monday.

The group's shares are one of the year's high flyers. A year ago they were around 240p, having bumped along at 52p in 1992.

BBPS, in the distant days when the British Empire straddled the world, enjoyed royalty rights in Brunei. In the 1960s it became little more than an oil investment com-

pany, with Shell its major investment. A transformation started in 1989 when Alan Gaynor became chief executive with the object of liquidating the investment portfolio without suffering huge capital gains tax bills.

Then BBPS began to emerge as an oil exploration business. A £55m rights issue allowed it to acquire the North Sea interests of Norway's Norsk Hydro. Other North Sea assets were picked up and then BBPS descended on the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico, establishing a substantial gas reserve just before the price of gas rose sharply.

The shares have also been beneficiaries of the takeover excitement which has swept through the oil sector since Gulf Canada rolled out its hostile £432m bid for Cyle Petroleum last week.

Since then Halliburton, a US group, has approached OGC International, an oil services group. Today BBPS is capitalised at more than £500m. When Mr Gaynor arrived it was worth just £20m.

In this trading Footsie managed to reach another peak. It gained 5.3 points to 4,460.5, preserving the festive run which has produced five days of gains and three peaks, with the index progressing 113.2.

Once again new year's tips and special situations generated odd flickers of life. Barclays de Zoete Wedd is adopting a much less robust stance on the market than NatWest Securities. Whereas NatWest is looking for Footsie to end next year at around

4,600 points, the BZW team is retaining its target at 4,300.

Sunderland, the latest football club to tap the market, enjoyed a spectacular debut. The shares, placed at 585p, scored a 147.5p gain to 732.5p.

Northern Electric returned to market at 637p. The Prudential Corporation increased its Northern stake by 0.64 per cent to just over 12 per cent but was unable to block the CE strike. The two surviving regional electricity companies, Southern and Yorkshire, were little changed.

Allied Dunose, one of the year's worst-performing blue chips, enjoyed a late seasonal rally, thanks to rumours that

Lehman Brothers, long-time bears of the shares, were planning to produce a buy review. The shares led blue chips with a 10.5p gain to 450p.

The departure of finance director John Grant continued to unsettle LucasVarity, the Anglo-American group. The price fell 1p to 225.5p.

Sears, planning to sell its Freemans mail order side to Littlewoods, firmed to 90p. Nick Bubb at stockbroker Metaperson points out that break-up value is more than 120p a share. He believes a disappointing Christmas could force the group to make moves to increase shareholder value, such as demerging Selfridges, which is worth 45p a share. He rates the shares a buy.

Flextech, the television group, jumped 16.5p to 687.5p with Merrill Lynch making confident noises. It believes that, after early losses, the group's joint venture with the BBC will break even in 2001 and make profits of up to £90m in 2003. The securities house sees Flextech moving into profit next year with a £4m offering. It believes the group figure will be as high as £21.6m by 2003.

Deep Sea Leisure, floated at 160p in October, achieved a 24 per cent interim profit advance to £372,000. It runs an aquarium at South Ferry, Fife, and has started work developing the £11.7m Chester Oaks Aquarium between Chester and Ellesmere Port. It is expected to open in the spring of 1998. The shares rose 8p to 172.5p.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other codes: E in rights = Ex-dividend at £1; U in rights = Unlisted Securities Market's Suspended on Parity Rule; pm in rights = Shares: 1 AM Stock. Source: FT Information

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UK Stock Market Report	01	Bullion Report	05	Water Shares	38
UK Company News	02	Wall St Report	06	Electricity Shares	40
Foreign Exchange	03	Tokyo Market	07	High Street Banks	41

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Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol
British Telecom	100,000	British Airways	20,000	BTI	10,000	British Gas	10,000
British Airways	20,000	British Airways	20,000	BTI	10,000	British Gas	10,000
British Airways	20,000	British Airways	20,000	BTI	10,000	British Gas	10,000

FTSE 100 index hour by hour

Open 4083.8 down 0.3	11.00 4081.9 up 4.7	14.00 na
08.00 4088.8 up 2.4	12.00 4082.8 up 5.4	16.00 na
10.00 4092.2 up 4.0	13.00 4082.5 up 5.1	Close na

Retailers, Food

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Telecommunications

BT	100.00	BT	100.00	BT	100.00
BT	100.00	BT	100.00	BT	100.00

Textiles & Apparel

Next	100.00	Next	100.00	Next	100.00
Next	100.00	Next	100.00	Next	100.00

Retailers, General

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Printing & Paper

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Pharmaceuticals

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Life Assurance

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Media

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Oil Exploration

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Investment Companies

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Investment Trusts

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Food Manufacturers

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Building Materials

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Chemicals

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Government Securities

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Index-linked

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Shorts

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Mediums

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Longs

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Rights Issues

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Recent Issues

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Water

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Transport

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Tobacco

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Telecommunications

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Retailers, General

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Printing & Paper

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Pharmaceuticals

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Life Assurance

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Media

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Oil Exploration

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Investment Companies

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Investment Trusts

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Food Manufacturers

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Building Materials

Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00
Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00	Asda	100.00

Chemicals

business & city

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IoD fears Greenbury code is bidding up directors' pay

Peter Rodgers

The performance criteria used to implement the Greenbury code appear to have led to a bidding up of directors' pay and need revising, the Institute of Directors has told a new committee on corporate governance.

The methods used to calculate bonuses, share options and long-term incentive plans have failed to meet the Greenbury requirement that they are "relevant, stretching and designed to enhance the business".

Boards have not applied the criteria "appropriately," and the use of comparisons with other companies does not appear to be working, the directors say in evidence to the committee, which is chaired by Sir Ronald Hamel.

The IoD adds that many experts believe this is leading to the bidding up of remuneration. There is too much focus on growth in earnings per share, rather than the original idea of using total shareholder return to measure performance.

The IoD, whose director-general, Tim Melville-Ross, was a member of the Greenbury committee, says in evidence to be published next week: "Now is the opportunity to revisit the whole area of performance criteria. Remuneration committees need to beef up performance criteria and focus more on the successful achievement of long-term company objectives."

The directors' organisation says it is "undoubtedly true that many directors of larger listed companies have seen increases in their remuneration easily outstrip those of lower to middle management, directors of small and medium enter-

prises and employees at large".

The IoD is not alone in its criticisms of the way performance is measured. The National Association of Pension Funds has made a similar attack, and the Association of British Insurers has asked for written evidence by 31 December.

The IoD also says that some companies are presenting the

detail of directors' pay in their reports in a way which masks the original purpose of disclosure: "The sheer quantity of information published in annual reports and accounts is beginning to confuse and irritate shareholders."

It often complies with the letter rather than the spirit of the code, which adds to confusion and "feeds the media hype that has grown up around pay". The

IoD recommends an abbreviated report on pay that sticks to "relevant" information. It also attacks what it calls "goldplating" of the Greenbury code as well as the wider Cadbury code on corporate governance by accountants and actuaries, who have added a large amount of detail which encourages companies to stick to the letter rather than the spirit.

The IoD believes many of the rules are too prescriptive and it urges the Hamel Committee to correct this tendency, so that companies can reject items in the codes as long as they explain why.

The IoD says all directors should put themselves up for re-election every three years. It recommends dropping the Greenbury rule recommending maximum rolling contract periods of one year.

Hostile bids 'fail to boost business efficiency'

Peter Rodgers
Financial Editor

The London Business School yesterday attacked the almost universal City view that hostile takeovers are a vital mechanism for improving business efficiency. Two days after Northern Electric failed by a hair's breadth to fight off a bid from CE Electric of the US, it emerged that the LBS had found that targets of hostile bids were not generally poor performers in need of a shake-up.

The LBS said the findings contradicted the received wisdom that hostile takeovers, or the threat of them, performed a valuable function in disciplining managers of poorly performing firms.

The challenge to the hostile takeover came at the end of a year in which the Fortis hotels and catering group spectacularly lost its bitter fight against a bid from Granada.

The business school was in the 1980s closely associated with Conservative policymakers and the promotion of a free market in corporate control, but its research now backs some of the criticisms of the City's takeover culture made by the Labour Party.

Julian Franks, professor of finance at the LBS, agreed that the school's view on hostile takeover had changed. He said: "I'm sure that at some point some people, possibly including myself, have been more positive about hostile takeovers than we are today."

However, a long programme of research by the LBS had led to the conclusion that the best spur to improvement of a poor performing company with weak management was the building of a large minority stake by a single shareholder.

This was such an effective mechanism that there should be changes in the rules of the City Panel on Takeovers and Mergers to allow buyers to accumulate stakes above the present limit of 30 per cent without being obliged to make a full bid.

Furthermore, insider dealing rules should be changed to allow large shareholders to collect information on the

companies in which they invest without becoming insiders, which prevents them trading the shares. It was not surprising that institutions were frequently uninformed about a company's performance until late in its decline, the LBS believed.

The LBS work backs the scepticism of Labour policymakers about the benefits of hostile bids. Labour has said it will oblige bidders to show that their plans are in the public interest and has also floated the idea of relaxing insider dealing rules to allow large minority shareholders to take a more direct role in management.

Professor Franks said he did not advocate the system widely used on the Continent in which companies are controlled by a network of large shareholders - so that in Germany there were only three hostile bids between 1945 and 1994.

He said: "I would like to see large active shareholders working for shareholder value. On the Continent, [such shareholders] are not necessarily working for shareholder value. It may be for their own private benefit." However, he conceded that the proposed changes would reduce the rights of small shareholders compared with large ones.

The LBS analysis is contained in an article in the influential US journal *Business Strategy Review*. Professor Franks and Colin Mayer, deputy director of Oxford University's school of management studies, summarised a decade of research by academics at the LBS. The research included data on performance before and after a large number of takeovers in the mid-1980s.

Their main conclusion was that the LBS work had shown that hostile takeovers were not motivated by the poor past record of target companies, whose performance tended to be in line with the average of the market.

There was some evidence that takeovers were motivated by poor expectations of future performance.

However, among poorly performing companies, a change in ownership of a significant minority share stake often led to a change of management control. The research showed that this impetus to improved efficiency was not usually accompanied by a full takeover bid.

The paper concluded that: "In other words, changes in minority stakes, rather than hostile takeover bids, are the mechanisms for improving the performance of companies with weaker management."



Boiling point: Traders on the floor of the Tokyo Stock Exchange try to remain cool yesterday as the Nikkei index drops

Photograph: Reuters

Stocks slump in Japan

Mathew Horsman

Japanese stocks fell yesterday amid worries that higher taxes and lower public spending would severely affect economic prospects, analysts said. The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Nissan Motor Company, Ajinomoto and Seven Eleven Japan led a broad decline, which saw the benchmark Nikkei 225 index drop 257.83 points, or 1.3 per cent, to close at 19,391.58. Banking, food and retail shares were among the biggest fallers.

Meanwhile, food and retail stocks fared badly after the release of figures showing a decline in November retail sales and anxiety over a planned increase in Japan's consumption tax to 5 per cent from 3 per cent.

At one point in yesterday's trading, the index dropped by 729.5 points, recovering in late afternoon trading.

Analysts said the market was digesting the likely effects of a 7.4 trillion yen budget, passed on Wednesday, which will wipe out income tax rebates and raise sale taxes.

Channel 5 exceeds retuning target for core-area viewers

Mathew Horsman
Media Editor

Channel 5 Broadcasting, owner of Britain's soon-to-be launched fifth terrestrial channel, will announce next week it has exceeded its target of retuning more than 50 per cent of households in its core areas.

The figure, which relates to homes located in areas using the Channel 37 frequency, has been boosted by two record weeks of retuning in December, when equipment in more than 460,000 homes was retuned.

The £180m retuning exercise, necessary to avoid interference of VCRs from the Channel 5 signal, is to be completed next year, with work scheduled even after the service is launched on 30 March. Channel 5 Broadcasting, owned by Pearson, United News & Media and CLT, the Luxembourg-based broadcaster, is required to retune millions of additional homes using Channel 35, a supplementary frequency awarded in the autumn.

The channel's backers hope to reach more than 80 per cent of the country once the retuning exercise has been completed, but this could be much later than the 30 March switch-on date. Media analysts expect the channel to take up to 10 per cent of national viewing within a few years.

Meanwhile, Channel 5 will resume negotiations in the new year with cable and satellite operators to supplement its terrestrial distribution. A satellite transponder would give the channel access to the 4.3 million dish-owners in the UK, some of whom live in areas where the terrestrial signal cannot be received. Carriage agreements with cable companies would tap a subscriber base of about 1.6 million.

Channel 5, which this month confirmed it had attempted to wrest the rights to hit shows such as *ER* and *Friends* from Channel 4, is also expected to bid aggressively for more US television product, with a key announcement likely early in the new year.

The channel intends to broadcast a mix of light entertainment, films, news and daily series, and will launch with a new five-day-a-week soap, tentatively entitled *Running Wild*, which is being made by Grundy Worldwide, a subsidiary of Pearson Television. It will also compete directly with ITV in peak time, by running films from 9pm without a full news break. ITV companies have complained in the past about the obligation to divide film transmissions in two parts, to accommodate *News at Ten*.

Mr Dyke, who runs Pearson's extensive media interests, is expected to press his case for a management buyout of Pearson Television, which includes Thames, the independent production company, Grundy Worldwide, SelectTV and ACI, the US production company. Pearson also owns 24 per cent of Channel 5, the chairmanship of which is expected to be rotated among representatives of the main shareholders.

Mr Dyke was intimately involved in preparing the bid for Channel 5, which beat a field that included BSkyB and Virgin.

Greg Dyke, the chief executive of Pearson Television, is to become chairman of Channel 5 Broadcasting, the company will confirm in the new year, writes Mathew Horsman.

Mr Dyke takes over from Frank Barlow, who is retiring as managing director of Pearson, the media and financial services conglomerate. He will be replaced, starting 8 January, by the new chief executive, Marjorie Scardino.

Mr Dyke, who runs Pearson's extensive media interests, is expected to press his case for a management buyout of Pearson Television, which includes Thames, the independent production company, Grundy Worldwide, SelectTV and ACI, the US production company. Pearson also owns 24 per cent of Channel 5, the chairmanship of which is expected to be rotated among representatives of the main shareholders.

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Fee disclosure call after CE triumph

Institutions are expected to press for full disclosure of all fees on both sides of a bid in the wake of the fiasco surrounding CE Electric's successful takeover of Northern Electric on Christmas Eve, writes Peter Rodgers.

The investment committee of the Association of British Insurers, the body representing the insurance funds, is understood to feel that full transparency is the fairest option.

There has been a furor over the disclosure of a controversial £250,000 "performance" fee that Northern agreed to pay its adviser BZW.

It was the late disclosure of the BZW fee that led the Takeover Panel to delay the deadline for the Northern bid.

The fees paid to CE Electric's investment bankers, CS First Boston, have not had to be disclosed. There is no suggestion that there was a problem with CSFB's fees, but full and immediate disclosure on both sides could have prevented the controversy arising in the first place.

Meanwhile, Prudential hit back in a row over its late intervention in the bid, when it bought shares to support Northern.

The Pru believes that critics who accused it yesterday of risking a sharp fall in the share price misunderstood the situation.

The Pru said "The board of Northern said that if the right price was offered it would recommend it. The experience of other bids shows that when a large stake is acquired for cash it is often a prelude to further negotiation."

The share price would probably have fallen if Northern had kept its independence, but only in the short term, CE Electric, with its large stake, would in due course start talking to the board again about another offer.

Although a renewed hostile bid is banned for a year under the rules, an agreed deal could be put to shareholders earlier. Having bought its stake at 630p or less, compared with a bid price of 650p, CE Electric could have afforded to pay more.

French tobacco giant sued

Mathew Horsman

The French tobacco giant Seita has been hit for the second time in a week by a lawsuit accusing it of causing a smoker's cancer. The latest lawsuit, only the second legal case of its kind brought in France, was filed in Beziers by the family of a young woman who died of lung cancer last October, and who had smoked Seita's Gauloises Brunes for 20 years.

The lawsuit, reminiscent of a slew of cases in the US, accuses the recently privatised tobacco maker of selling an "inherently dangerous" product due to its addictive properties and its link with cancer, and seeks more than Fr1m (£120,000) in damages and interest.

Seita shares slumped during light trading in Paris. But the company immediately struck back, declaring itself to be "confident" about the outcome of the case.

The company pointed out that all cigarette packets stated nicotine and tar levels and carried a government health warning. In the earlier lawsuit, a two-pack-a-day Gauloise smoker who is near death demanded Fr2.7m in damages.

IN BRIEF

• The Forum of Private Business said yesterday the majority of its members backed proposals to link business rate relief to employment levels rather than individual property values. In a postal ballot, 84 per cent of members of the small business lobby group said it would be fairer to use National Insurance liability as the basis for relief because it would protect those small businesses that suffered most from the Uniform Business Rate.

• The Federal Communications Commission has voted to approve a technology standard for a new generation of high-definition digital television. It was announced in Washington yesterday. Digital TV, which is also being introduced in Britain, offers improved pictures and CD-quality sound. The vote is expected to usher in a new generation of televisions and set-top boxes aimed at giving viewers access to hundreds of channels as well as the Internet.

• Walt Disney's *Toy Story* boosted video sales in Britain to a record high this year, figures revealed yesterday. An estimated £850m was spent buying videos in 1996, a rise of about 8 per cent on the previous year. *Toy Story* sold more than 460,000 copies in November, followed by the film of the Irish dance show, *Lord of the Dance*, with more than 285,000. *Babe* sold 190,000, *Thelma & Louise* 170,000 and the cartoon version of *101 Dalmatians* 160,000.

• Elf Atochem, a unit of French energy company Elf Aquitaine, said on Thursday it had agreed to buy the European adhesives and sealants activities of Laporte, which had turnover last year of £100m. The operations include Evode and Sovereign in Britain, Evode Industries in Ireland, Simson in the Netherlands and Hey'di in Germany. Financial details were not disclosed.

• Turkey has appointed a consortium headed by Goldman Sachs to advise it on the delayed privatisation of Turk Telekom. The government hoped 10-15 per cent of Telekom would be ready for sale once Goldman Sachs had completed its advisory services and the sale strategy had been worked out. The sale is expected to raise \$3.5bn.

• The French government yesterday enacted a ban on asbestos in new buildings from 1 January, becoming one of the last industrial nations to do so. France has, until now, imported 35,000 tonnes of asbestos a year.

informative:

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Equity Release Loan		
If a mortgage is held with First Direct or no other mortgage is outstanding on your property:		
	From	To
All loan amounts	6.49% pa	6.74% pa

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Pick of the Day

Escaping from Liberty
7.30pm BBC2

Veteran travel writer Jan Morris (*right*) begins a five-part series revisiting her favourite places, beginning with Trieste. The 70-year-old first visited the Italian port as the 19-year-old soldier, James Morris, during the Second World War – long before her “gender realignment” in 1972. Tonight’s film concludes in her beloved Manhattan, a city she finds magical and dreamlike, rather than a crime-ridden temple to mammon.



Film of the Day

Singin' in the Rain
E 20pm BBC2

The season of Arthur Freed's films continues with probably the most enjoyable American musical of all time — an exuberant, affectionate parody of the movie business at the time of the transition from silents to talkies. Gene Kelly (*left*) and Jean Hagen are the romantic leads of the old era, finding it hard to adapt to the new — especially the squeaky-voiced Jean. Debbie Reynolds is the new *God* Charisse and Rita Moreno co-star.

Today's television and radio

BBC 1

7.00 News, Local News and News (2500.485). *
7.10 Joe 90 (7007982). 7.35 Pinocchio (R) (1729689). 8.00 News, Local News and News (5168824). 8.10 Barney (4628195). 8.15 Follow That Sleigh (7531485). 8.35 The Legend of Prince Valiant (8554398). 9.00 News, Local News and News (3707176). 9.05 Incredible... Games (4322992). 9.30 Record Breakers Special (81805). 10.00 Playdays (S) (8527331). 10.20 The Pink Panther (3569640).

10.40 **REPS** Supergirl (Jeanmarc Swarcz 1984 US). Dull super-heroics, with a sappy-looking Helen Slater in the title role. There's campy super-williams from Faye Dunaway, and the Cock looks like he's just woken up from a major header to find himself on a movie lot (42434553).

12.40 **Wipeout** (S) (9219737). 1.10 News and Weather (39234824). 1.22 Local News and Weather - (89018534). 1.25 Neighbours (58703244). 1.45 Just William (R) (S) (445008). 2.15 Disney Time (S) (8334076).

2.55 **REPS** Grease (Randall Kleiser 1978 US). "You're the One that I Want" and all that, in this innocuously charming musical fantasy of 1950s high-school boys and girls. With John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John (S) (7224222).

4.40 **The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends** (S) (7194465). * 5.05 Blue Peter: The Best Bits (S) (7888282). *

5.35 Neighbours (S) (308908). *

6.00 News and Weather (452195). *

6.15 Local News Magazine (440350).

6.30 **Big Break**. C-Ite celebrates play snooker (S) (114). *

7.00 Dad's Army (R) (8911). *

8.00 Only Fools and Horses. The comedy of the three new stories finds Del trying his hand at being a "new mar" - a storyline which might have been more relevant to about five years ago (S) (4331). *

9.00 News, Local News, Weather (6824). *

9.30 **REPS** The Firm (Sydney Pollack 1993 US). Tom Cruise comes on where he left off in *A Few Good Men*, as a hotshot lawyer up against corporate corruption (in this case the partners of his own law firm). In Sydney Pollack's slick, professional - and very long - screen adaptation of John Grisham's best-selling novel, Gene Hackman plays the Horvok and Holly Hunter support (S) (35355).

10.00 Jackie Mason Live at the London Palladium. The acerbically dark American comedian (59954).

12.00 **REPS** Carry On Matron (Gerald Thomas 1972 US). Sid James leads a gang of crooks planning to steal supplies of contraceptive pills from a maternity hospital - an art. art. Kenneth Coyle plays his son, who is forced to dress up in a nurse's uniform and infiltrate the building (19683).

2.30 **Weather** (3678767). To 2.35 am.

BBC 2

- 7.20** **The Man for All Seasons** (Charlton Heston 1988 UK). Adaptation of Robert Bolt's acclaimed historical stage play about the clash between Henry VIII and Thomas More over the king's divorce. Starring Charlton Heston, Vanessa Redgrave and John Gielgud (66266263).
- 9.45** **Little Dimples: Little Dimples's Story** (Christine Edzard 1987 UK). The second half of Edzard's labour-of-love Dickens adaptation – which presents the action from yesterday's opening three hours from a different perspective. Derek Jacobi, Alec Guinness and Sarah Pickering star (43586927).
- 12.40** **Racing from Chepstow.** The 12.50, 1.20, 2.25 – and, at 1.55, the Welsh National. Plus, the 2.25 and 3.25 Rejoice! (S) (6997737).
- 2.50** **An Affair in Leopardtown** (John McEwan 1957 US). Just about as adorable shipboard romantic comedy starring Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr. They bicker; they kiss (95747843).
- 4.40** **Choir of the Year.** The last adult semi-final and a report on the increasing popularity of women's barbershop singing (S) (3831534).
- 5.20** **'Singin' in the Rain** (Gene Kelly, Stanley Donen 1952 US). See *Film of the Day*, above (55418640). *
- 7.00** **House Detectives.** Landscape archaeologist David Austin, architectural historian Mac Dowdy and interior-design historian Judith Miller attempt to uncover the hidden history of a seemingly ordinary Victorian home in South London (S) (59).
- 7.30** **Escaping from Liberty.** See *Pick of the Day*, above (S) (891331).
- 8.20** **The Works: The Secret Life of the Pope.** Pope John Paul II is considered by many to be the Catholic Church's most conservative leader this century. Here, Mark Lawson traces the Pontiff's early life, revealing that 50 years ago, Karol Wojtyła was a subversive poet and playwright who shocked many in his native Poland (S) (702669).
- 9.00** **Shooting Stars.** With Jarvis Cocker, Emma Forbes, Ian Kelsey and Owen Bremner (S) (322553).
- 9.40** **The Fast Show.** Christmas edition of the much-cherished sketch show from Paul Whitehouse, Charlie Higson et al (S) (289398).
- 10.25** **Knowing Me, Knowing You: With Alan Partridge.** Steve Coogan's cheeky, control-freak chat-show host is last year's seasonal special (S) (312350).
- 11.10** **High Heels** (Pedro Almodóvar 1991 Spain). Perhaps Almodóvar's least successful juggling of cartoon-like comedy and intense melodrama. Victoria Abril plays the newscaster obsessed with the singer mother who abandoned her as a child. April marries her mother's old boyfriend – and when he is murdered, suspicion falls on both of them (S) (275263).
- 1.00** **A Night of Wonders.** Starring Windsor in Concert (then Weatherfield) (R) (S) (238419). To 2.10am.

ITV/London

- 6.00 GIMTY (7492553),** 9.25 Santa Bug(s) (4337824). **9.50 Stop by Stop (R)** (S238621). **10.20 News (S283534).** ***10.25 London Tonight (S282805).**
- 10.30 Billie Tarzan's Greatest Adventure Clubn** **Gulliverian (1958 US).** Gordon Scott is the king of the jungle, and Anthony Quayle is somehow involved (23969282).
- 12.05 Cartoon Time (2904282).** **12.20 Your Shout (1822927).** **12.25 London Tonight (2272468).** **12.30 News (S225358).** **12.55 Sport '96 (3958027).** **1.55 Goldeneye: The Secret Files (S203398).** **2.50 Laugh with the Carry Ons (6283398).** **3.20 Cartoon Time (7607060).** **3.30 News (I719466).** **3.55 London Today (1010737).** **3.45 The World's Greatest Magic (1017331).** **4.10 Dance! (1699737).**
- 5.10 Bruce's Price Is Right (S) (7872621).** *
- 5.40 News, Weather (201485).** *
- 6.00 Kung Fu: The Making of 101 Dalmatians.** Movie plug - as if needed any more (118373).
- 6.25 London Tonight (254466).**
- 7.00 Catacombs Street (S) (2027).** *
- 7.30 Coronation Street.** Liz McDonald is floored by some unexpected news, and Madeline Mulesher has troubled conscience over a drink with Bill (468).
- 8.00 The Bill.** Why did someone try to kill a member of a pub football team? (8447).
- 8.30 Faith In The Future.** sitcom. Mother-and-daughter, father-and-son comedy featuring marriage plots - much to the dismay of their boy-friends (6422).
- 9.00 Peter Benchley's The Beast.** Lucas Coven's expedition to kill the mysterious behemoth proves successful when he bags a 38R skull. Unfortunately, it turns out that the brute was only a baby - and murder-wants revenge (35443089). *
- 10.40 News, Weather (643089).**
- 10.50 Local News, Weather (741195).** *
- 10.55 Tina Turner: Live In Amsterdam - Wildest Dreams Tour (B44534).**
- 11.55 BBC IV Warszawa.** Cliff Kanew 1991, USJ. Disappointing screen realization of Sara Paretsky's feminist private detective - stripping away most of her politics and introducing a lame plot about a 13-year-old searching for her dad. Kathleen Turner is in the role. What a waste! (S) (686640).
- 1.35 Entertainment '96.** Review of the past year's arts and entertainment scene (4238175).
- 2.35 BBC Code Name: Zebra** (Joe Tomatore 1986 US). Newly released convict Jim Mitchum embarks on a personal mission to eradicate members of a disbanded anti-Mafia group called the Zebra Force who set him up (576190).
- 4.20 Jones and Jerry (96393802).**
- 4.40 Cool Vibes (56837372).** To 4.45am.

Channel 4

- 6.50 **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (R)** (S) (8586843).
- 7.15 **Up on the House Top** (R) (7099973).
- 7.40 **The Babysitters Club (R)** (8574669).
- 8.15 **Little Shop (R)** (7515447).
- 8.40 **Where on Earth Is Carmen San Diego?** (908424).
- 9.00 **The Big Breakfast** (99008).
- 10.00 **Hangin' with Mr. Cooper (S)** (43244).
- 10.30 **The Crystal Maze (R)** (S) (6385263). *
- 11.25 **Back to the Future (R)** (S) (7345669).
- 11.55 **The Pink Panther (S)** (5854094).
- 12.20 **God in the House (S)** (8798783). *
- 12.50 **Racing from Kemps Park. The 1.10; 1.40, 2.15 and 2.50** (4839578).
- 3.05 **Babylon 5 (S)** (2936176). *
- 4.00 **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** (Norman Zage, 1938). *S*. Inspiring adaptation of the Mark Twain classic (7262992). *
- 5.20 **Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure** (Stephen Herek 1987 US). Amiable valley-speaking kids Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter are in danger of flunking their history exam. As luck would have it, they find themselves on a time-travel jaunt—meeting Napoleon; Sigmund Freud, Socrates, Glenn Rhee, Abe Lincoln and Mozart. Most excellent (S) (5541008).
- 7.00 **News, Weather** (S) (9599). *
- 7.30 **Just Dancin' Around**. Three film directors follow three leading international contemporary choreographers. First up is the American, who spent his childhood with Winston Tinsley, whose work is often described as punishing, and, memorably as "aerobics class from hell" (S) (19805). *
- 8.30 **Brookside** (S) (8824). *
- 9.00 **By Brand: All the Way to Worcester**. A film crew joins Brand on her tour of Britain (S) (7805). *
- 10.00 **The Man with Two Brains** (Carl Reiner 1983 US). Well-worn comedy with Steve Martin at his best. He plays a brilliant surgeon duped into marrying superitch Kathleen Turner, before falling in love with a fump of grey matter voiced by Sissy Spacek. David Warner co-stars (566027). *
- 11.40 **Night of the Demon** (Jacques Tourneur 1957 UK). Terrific thriller—Tourneur's adaptation of the MR James short story "Casting the Runes" stars Delia Andrews as a British American psychologist who travels to a cynical investigate a series of deaths (S) (12553).
- 1.25 **Night of the Eagle** (Sidney Hayers 1962 US). Peter "Jack" King Wyngate plays a professor who tries to stop his wife (Linda Blair) dabbling in woofoo (777886).
- 3.00 **The Devil-Doll** (Tod Browning 1936 US). Wrongly convicted Lonnie Ford Browning escapes from Devil's Island and uses a serum to shrink/purge this creepy horror classic (4123549). To 2.50am.

ITV/Regions

AIRTEL

AS LONDON except: 12.55pm Celebrity Squares (9200089), 1.25 Film Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger (2807960S), 5.10 Shortland Street - (7872621), 6.00 Bruce's Pie is Right (181837), 1.35am Film: Hanover Street (776157), 3.35am Furry Business (8943349D), 4.00-5.55am The 1996 World Music Awards (907549).

CHANNEL 3 NORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE

AS London except: 12.55pm Coronation Street (1724848), 1.30 Emmerdale (85008), 3.00 The Making of Star Trek: First Contact (77181), 1.30am Pavlov! In Moderna 1996 (95848), 2.30am ITV at the Phoenix Festival (8540573Z), 5.25 Wanted: Dead or Alive (789119).

CENTRAL

AS London except: 12.55pm Lunch with the Queen (9200089), 1.25 Film Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger (2807960S), 6.10 40 Years of ITV (449447).

HTV

AS London except: 12.55pm West: Dinosaurs (9200089), Wales: The Electric Chair (9200089), 1.25 Film Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger (2807960S), 6.00 Celebrity Squares (171837), 7.00 West: Celebrity Squares (2027), 1.35am Film: Hanover Street (776157), 3.35am Furry Business (84683193), 4.00-5.55am The 1996 World Music Awards (907549).

MERIDIAN

AS London except: 12.55pm The Pier (9200089), 1.25 Film Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger (2807960S), 1.35am Film: Hanover Street (776157), 3.35am Furry Business (8943349D), 4.00-5.55am The 1996 World Music Awards (907549).

WESTCOUNTRY

AS London except: 12.55pm Emmerdale (9200089), 1.25 Film Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger (2807960S), 1.35am Film: Hanover Street (776157), 3.35am Furry Business (8943349D), 4.00-5.55am The 1996 World Music Awards (95645).

S4C

As C&E except: 10.00am Film: Blood Alley (7277398), 12.05pm Blue Christmas (2902824), 12.20 Slot Melthrill (8798783), 3.05 Film: And You Thought Your Partners were Weird (19177973), 4.45 The Pink Panther (8365282), 5.00 P (2355), 6.00 Tenants V Bolt World! Annemiddlo (331) 6.05 News (988195), 6.05 Heno (518599), 6.25 Slon A Sion (256008), 7.00 Ceirn Gwlad Patagonia (1622), 8.00 Gair o Briffed (7669), 9.00 News (478669), 9.10 Stanley Baxter in Real Terms (444114), 9.10 Dad's Army (1040 Father Ted's Special Edition (656992), 11.40-1.25am Film: Invasion (398422).

Radio

Radio 1
9.00-9.30am *Radio 1 Breakfast* **9.30**
 9.30-10.00 Kevin Costner 11.30 Oasis
 12.00-1.00 Noel & Gerry 1.00-2.00
 Dave Pearce 7.00 Essential
 Selection: Best of '96 10.00 One in
 the Jungle: Jungle Blitz **9.50** 12.00 Radio
 1 Rap Show 3.00-7.00am Annie
 Nightingale

Radio 2
6.00-6.30am *Radio 2* **6.30**
 6.30-6.45am Alex Lester 7.30 Wogan
 9.00-9.15am Bruce 12.00 The Bob
 Newhart Story 1.00 Chris
 Comedy Classics 1.30 Debbie
 Thrower 3.00 Steve Wright 6.00 Val
 Doonican 7.00 Womburgology 7.30
 Friday Night is Music Night 8.45 Jan
 10.00 The Arts Programme 12.05
 Charles Nove 4.00-6.00am Beverly
 Hills

Radio 3
06.15-7.00am *Radio 3* **7.00**
 6.00am On Air
 9.00 Morning Collection
 9.45 Musical Entertainment
 12.00 Composer of the Week:
 Tchaikovsky
 1.00 News, Bristol Lunchtime
 Concerts, From St George's,
 Bristol 1.45, Bristol
 Emperor Quartet, Haydn-
 String Quartet No 5 in C, Op 5.
 Webern, Six Bagatelles, Op 9.
 Concertmaster String Quartet in
 C (550)

2.00 Pizzicatos, Pained Air
 Piano reveals what he loves and
 listens to about Portugal.

3.00 Minors the Archers.

Choice

Birds singing, crickets twittering, leaf-cutters rasping, woodpeckers pecking, oot to mention the pines whispering and the broad-leaved woods rustling – the orchestra of the trees plays in *Whispering among the Leaves* (3.30pm R4). Meanwhile, Jennifer Saunders heads for more tropical climes in *Desert Island Discs* (9.05am R4).

5.30 Music Machine: Yummy Fats joins a group of Manchester students for a crash course in essentials of Latin American percussion playing.

5.15 The Life and Times of the Symphony.

6.00 Digital Masters.

7.30 Epic Philharmonics: Poulenc, Gluck, Messiaen; Turangalila-Symphonia.

9.20 By Woody Allen.

10.00 Hear and Now.

12.00 The Best of the Week: Chausson and Duparc.

Roger Nichols presents a selection of songs and orchestral music by Duparc and Chausson. Duparc: Au Clair de la Lune; Du Parc: Aux Étoiles, Chausson: Les Papillons, Le Colibri. Chausson: Son de Fête, Duparc: La Vie Antérieure.

Chausson: Poème.

1.00 The Night With Donald Macleod.

6.00-7.00am Sequence.

Radio 4
192.4-4.58 AM; 196H-LW
6.00 News
6.10 Farming Today.
6.25 Prayer for the Day.
6.30 The Living World.
7.00 Today.
9.00 (LW) Test Match Special. I commentary from Hareline.
9.05 (FM) Desert Island Discs. comedian and writer Jennifer Saunders. See Choice, above.
9.45 (FM) United States of Africa.
10.00 (LW) An Act of Violence.
10.00 (FM) When She Comes Back.
10.15 (LW) On This Day.
10.30 (LW) Test Match Special.
10.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's News.
11.00 (FM) Park Bench and Café.
11.30 (FM) The Old Cuckoo's Nest. By Charles Dickens. C/G/I.
12.00 (FM) Paid Company.
12.25 The Food Programme.
1.00 The World at One.

1.07 (M) Test Match Special.
1.10 (M) The Archers.
1.55 (FM) Shipping Forecast.
2.00 (FM) The Classic Series: *Alice in Wonderland*, by Lewis Carroll.
Alice stumbles down a rabbit hole and into a bizarre adventure.
1/2.
3.00 Breakfast.
3.30 Whispering Among the Leaves.
See Choice, left.
4.00 News.
4.05 The Cantabile Ladies.
4.15 A Short Story, *Christmas*.
Presented by Maevie Binyon.
5.00 P.M.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.15 Going South. Kevin Connolly
takes us across north to south
France, following a route
used by travellers for
centuries, from the Crusades
to the British railways of the
Victory century. (1/2).
6.30 An Everyday Story of Europe.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Pick of the West.
8.00 The Next Question Please.
8.50 Ninety Not Out.
9.15 Letter from America.
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature.
The Gospel According to Black Voices.
10.00 The Heidi Tangle.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: *High Spirits*, by Robertson Davies.
11.00 Year Ending.
11.25 Fourth Column.
11.45 The Heidi Tangle.
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: *Sir Henry at Rawlinson End*. Written and
performed by Viv Stansall.
1.00 (M) The Next Question Please.
1.05 (M) The Next Question Please.

Radio 5

6:05am Jesus Genius 7.00 Thee
Breakfast Program 9.00 Mega-
thon 10.00 The Morning Walk 11.35
The Food of Love and Hate 12.00
Midday with Mail 2.05 Ruscoe on
Fire 4.00 National News 7.00 News
Extra 7.35 Parkinson 9.05 Friday
Spot 10.05 Paper Talk 11.00 Night
Eyes 12.05 After Hours 2.05 Up All
Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports

Classic FM
(102.1 FM, 102.1 AM)
7.00am Mike Read's Festival Breakfast
10.00 Alan Freeman 12.30 David
Sunnah 1.30am 2.00 Nick Bailey
5.00 Classic Showcases '96 7.00
Classic Travel Guide 8.00 Evening
Concert 10.00 Michael Macphail
11.00 Friday Peterson 4.00-7.00am
Alan Freeman

Virgin Radio
(72.5, 111.7-112.3 MHz and 102.1 FM)
6.00am Jeremy Carr 7.00am Graham
Dean 8.00 Lyn Parsons 4.00 Mitch
Johnson 7.00 GFM Paul Coyle 7.00
(NW) Robin Banks 10.00 Alan Freeman
12.30 Mark Forrest 2.00-
4.00 Howard Pearce

World Service
(102.1 FM)
1.00am Newswest 1.30 Outlook
1.55 News of Faith 2.00 Newswest
2.30 News in Action 3.00 News
3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Meridian
4.00 Newswest 4.30 Jane How &
Then 5.00 News 5.30 News
5.45 5.30-6.00am Science in Action

Satellite

MUSIC CHANNEL

6.00am Duncan's World (1994)
7.00am The Best of the New from the
UK (1979) (7823756), #25 The
New Adventures of Oliver Twist
(1994) (57445008), 10.00 Maverick
(1993) (28785375), 12.10
North (1994) (939447), 14 Major
League II (1992) (6037018), 3.30
The Untouchables (1994) (595085)
5.00 Maverick (1993)
(6521213), 7.30 UK Top
10 (202911), 8.00 Talk, Dark and
Deadly (1995) (593505), 10.00 In-
side the Veranda (1994)
284061(1-4), 12.05 The Scorpion
(1994) (439428), 1.50 Killing Zoo
(1994) (627577), 3.30-6.00am:
... Pretty Princess (1990) (521382)

SIX MOVIES

6.00am Gladiators, the Cross-Eyed
Lin (1965) (91640), 8.00 Rita
Hayworth: The Love Goddess (1983)
(91640), 10.00 The Untouchables
Nerds W/ Nerds in Love (1994)
(32553), 12.00 Clean Slate (1994)
(57422), 2.00 Beethoven's 2nd
(1993) (60507), 4.00 Only You
(1994) (60507), 6.00 Richard
Kipling's Jungle Book (1994)
(80114), 8.00 Beethoven's 2nd
(1993) (52331), 10.00 Disclosure
(1994) (629862), 12.10
The Untouchables (1994) (595085)
2.15 Death Machine (1994)
(602554), 4.10-8.00am Clean
Slate (1994) (657015), 7.

SIX MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Jesus Christ Superstar
(1973) (8283640), 6.00 Donovan's
Reveries (1973) (639739), 8.00

10.000 Casualties of War (1989)
\$819,910. 12.00 Victor, Victor
(1987) \$54,980.91. 9.155
Nights (1987) (75363461). 3.95-
5.30am Pat and Mike (1952).
(7841935).

SKY SPORTS 1
6.30am Sports Centre (5811.4)
7.00 Racing (5797.3). 7.30 Cricket
Second Test - Zimbabwe Vs England
(11.00). 8.30am Sports Centre
Second Interview (3669). 9.00 Sailing
(2176). 9.40 World Sport Special
(1060). 5.00 Cliff Richard's Christ-
mas Tennis (5534). 6.00 Sports
Centre (74262). 7.00 Cricket
(11.00). 8.30am Sports Centre
(5824). 11.00 Hold the Back Page
(66621). 12.00 WWF (3159).
1.00 Sports Centre (8265). 2.00-
3.00am Hold the Back Page
(64190).

SKY SPORTS 3
1.00am Sporting Update (43207089).
2.00am Sports Centre (92410932).
3.00 Football: Scottish League
(50141718). 5.00am Sports World
(41746331). 6.00 Surfing
(325697.3). 7.00 League Review
(41100). 8.00 Football: Scottish
League (41691640). 10.00 Sports
World Sport (41687447). 11.00-
12.00am Hold the Back Page
(60222.14).

SKY 1
7.00am Love Connection (4678265).
7.30am New York Connection (4678267). 7.45
Jeopardy! (31.00). 8.10 Hotel
5550424.0. 9.00 Another World
(5697527). 9.45 Oprah (7810656).
10.00 Real TV (4733622). 11.00am

Genaldi (17244), 4.00 3.99, 1.96 Billboard
 Music (1957) 1,000 (17845) 3.99, 1.96
 Top 100 (23331), 4.00 Orphan (24256)
 5.00 Star Trek (5718) 6.00 The Simpsons
 6.00 (6737), 6.30 The Simpsons
 (7089), 7.00 The Simpsons (3337),
 7.30 Superheroes (603), 7.30, 8.00 Kung
 Fu (63447), 8.00 Walter, Tress Fagan
 (63448), 8.10 Star Trek (200)
 12.00 L.A.D., (81490), 12.30 Real
 TV (41374), 1.00-2.00am Hit Mix
 Long Play (47732).

SKY 2
 7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine
 (1951) 2822, 8.00 Nowhere Man
 (7357602), 8.00 Models Inc
 (1857) 466, 10.00 File (195053) 31
 (195054), 11.00 Star Trek (3337), 12.00
 Files: The First Men to Walk on the
 Moon (1954) (277222), 2.00-6.00am
 Hit Mix (8781886).

LIVE TV
 6.00am Information TV 7.00 Spanish
 Archa: 7.30 Mind and Body 8.00 Body
 Fit 8.30 Video Box 9.00 Psychic Ps
 9.30 Mind and Body 10.00 Reactions 10.15
 Mind and Body 11.00 Mind and Body
 11.30 Spanish Archa: 12.00 Reactions
 12.30 What Files 1.00 Looking
 Love 1.30 Psychic Ps: 2.00 Looking
 Love 2.30 Mind and Body 3.00 Video Box
 3.30 Fin: Mind and Body 4.00 Spanish
 Archa: 4.30 1.00 Canary West
 5.30 Looking for Love 6.00 Fashion
 6.30 Gelfs: Sport 7.00 Spanish Archa:
 7.30 Reactions 8.00 Psychic Ps:
 8.30 Missing Persons 9.00 Why Files
 9.30 Mind and Body 10.00 Reactions
 10.15 Mind and Body 11.00 Mind and
 Body 12.30 Stand-Up Live: Sport
 disk: Freddie Star 11.30 Edmurek
 with Anne Nicole Smith 12.00-6.00am
 Hit Mix (8781886).

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